



WORLD CUP KICK-OFF

SHOOT!

28p

19th JUNE, 1982

GOOD

LUCK

IN

SPAIN



Paul Mariner and Kevin Keegan carry England's hopes in Spain.



Super Scots Alan Hansen and John Robertson.



Gerry Armstrong and manager Billy Bingham are plotting for Northern Irish success.



**VILLA'S NIGHT OF
EURO GLORY
SPURS' WEMBLEY
TRIUMPH**

Let's prove Britain is Great

RARELY has football needed a World Cup to succeed like the 1982 series. Sadly, soccer — like most sports — is played against a political background and whether we like it or not, it has to be acknowledged.

So it is imperative that the 24 teams in Spain make everyone forget politics by playing football so good that all the talk is about what's happening ON the field, not off it.

Not just the teams have a duty. The thousands of travelling British fans must show the world that Britain is still Great; too often have we seen our name dragged through the dirt by hooligans.

In a month we'll know all the answers. Have England really improved since almost going

SHOOT view!

out of the qualifying competition? Can Scotland, against the odds, qualify for the Second Round at the expense of Brazil or the Soviet Union? Will plucky Northern Ireland find the sort of skill and courage their predecessors did in the 1958 Finals?

We hope the answer to every question is a resounding YES!

Wouldn't it be marvellous for Ron Greenwood, who retires this summer, to steer his team to . . . dare we say it? . . . the Semi-Finals?

How marvellous if Scotland return home with their heads held high after drawing with Brazil and beating the Soviet Union in the First Round — and more, besides.

What a boost if Northern Ireland, with so few players to choose from, made the world sit up and take notice of them.

"British fans on best behaviour — come back soon" — is it too much to hope that Spanish newspapers can run that headline in a few weeks?

We hope it's the best-ever World Cup. The most sporting World Cup. We hope it sets a new standard in world football.

The very best of luck to England, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

WILL it be World Cup glory or misery for England, Northern Ireland and Scotland? **SHOOT** invites three experts to analyse the first round games involving Britain's Big Three. This is their verdict . . .



France and Brazil will make it tough for England and Scotland.



GROUP 4
England
Czech
France
Kuwait

GROUP 6
Brazil
USSR
Scotland
N. Zealand

GROUP 5
Spain
Yugoslavia
N. Ireland
Honduras



THE

'This is Ron's best XI'

JOHN BOND
Man. City Manager

ASTON Villa's remarkable achievement in winning the European Cup against all the odds could act as a spur to England in the World Cup.

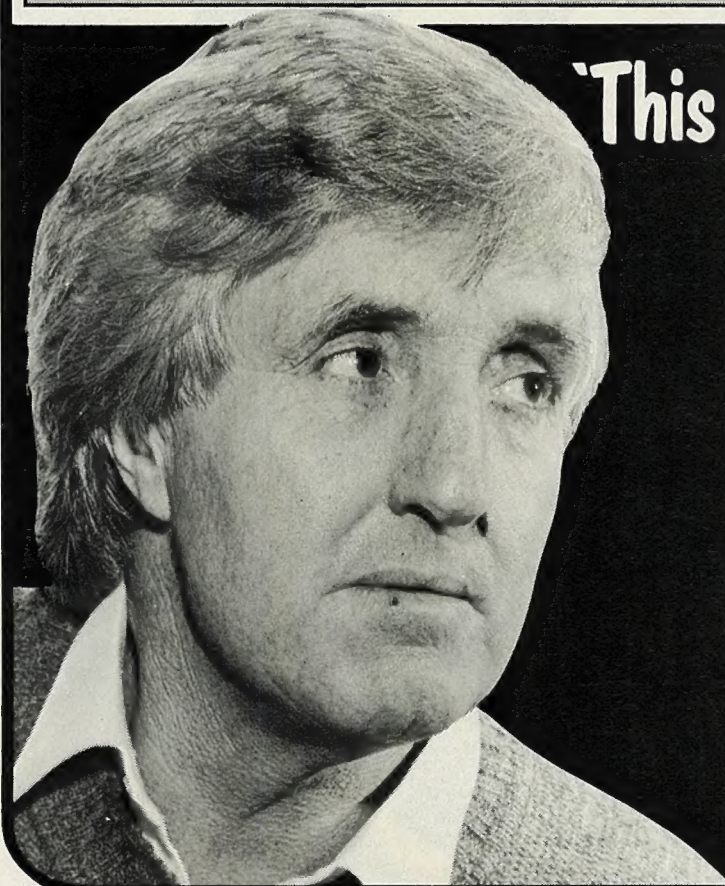
In beating Bayern Munich, Villa proved that British players need fear nothing in Spain.

In fact, uncertainties are such in world football that England are more likely to beat West Germany in Spain than Brazil, outright favourites to win the trophy in Madrid on July 11.

People have criticised England's preparation. Not me. Ron Greenwood's seen all the players at his disposal, and, as a result, he will field his best team against France.

My belief is that he's settling on this team: Shilton, Neal, Sansom, Martin, Thompson, Coppell, Wilkins, Robson, Devonshire, Francis, Keegan.

No Hoddle. No Brooking. I can hear the howls of protest. But I love the way Devonshire gets forward, and there is no separating Wilkins and Robson. Nor Coppell,



'Scotland's dangermen'

BILLY McNEILL Celtic Manager

I THINK Scotland and England will qualify for the Second Round, but I'm afraid it's an early exit for Northern Ireland.

Against New Zealand, Scotland won't make the mistakes of four years ago. New Zealand will play with a lot of pride and determination, particularly in their first game, but Scotland should be too good for them.

Brazil will be Scotland's toughest opponents. I saw them when they played England last year and thought they were magnificent. But since then they appear to have gone off the boil, and I'm not so sure they deserve to be favourites any more.

Scotland haven't scored a lot of goals, so it's crucial they control the midfield. Graeme Souness and particularly Gordon Strachan will be the key men here.

Brazil's dangermen will be Zico and Falcão. Jock Stein must put someone like Asa Hartford on Zico for a little bit of 'special attention'.

Which leaves the Russia match — a real crunch game. David Kipiani's retirement will be a major loss to the Soviets, and in an all or nothing situation such as this could be, I'd back the Scots to win through.

England had trouble qualifying, but

appear to be very much better now. Ron Greenwood has some great players capable of producing good football, and despite all his problems I'm sure he knows who will be in his best team.

France are tremendous for flair football, particularly men like Platini and Rocheteau, but need more consistency.

Czechoslovakia are a big danger, but England should know enough about them, and hopefully Kuwait's challenge will be over by the time they meet England.

I think England and France will go through from Group Four.

Northern Ireland are in a very difficult group. I don't know much about Honduras, but I've got to tip Spain and Yugoslavia to qualify from Group Five.

The Irish were a wee bit fortunate to qualify in the first place, but the draw has certainly done them no favours.

Host nation Spain have got to be certain to go through, so that leaves only one place, which must go to Yugoslavia.

They are possibly the best producers of footballers in Europe, and with a lot of Western European teams on the watch for talent, the Yugoslavs will really be turning it on in Spain.



BOBBY ROBSON Ipswich Manager

ENGLAND's preparations for the World Cup could prove to be a major obstacle to their hopes of winning glory.

Holders Argentina have been together for weeks, but in England's case it's been a question of waiting until almost the very last minute to find out who is actually going to make the trip.

Players such as Glenn Hoddle will kick off the World Cup Finals having just finished a season of some 70 games, and that's hardly ideal preparation.

'England and tartan glory'

Nevertheless, I expect England to qualify alongside France from Group Four.

England's first game, against the French on June 16, could prove crucial.

I'll be looking to players such as Keegan, Hoddle, Robson and Mariner to really turn it on in this one, because if we can beat the French we are well on the way to winning the Group.

Czechoslovakia will also be a very tough proposition, while I feel England are fortunate to be playing Kuwait last of all. Hopefully by then they won't have anything to play for.

Of the other British teams, I think the Scots could prove themselves to be one of the shock teams of the World Cup Finals. But I'm afraid I can't hold out much hope for Northern Ireland.

The draw has been very cruel to Scotland, but I still feel they can

VERDICT By SHOOT'S Experts

Alvin Martin could fill England's problem defensive position. But Terry Butcher must now be favourite for that role.

who never lets England down.

I'm confident England will beat the skilful French and the more cautious and cunning Czechs, and know they've been in a game after overcoming Kuwait.

Man for man Scotland are stronger than England. If Dalglish and Souness perform to their potential, and Scotland get it right, they will qualify, even with Brazil and USSR in the group.

Discipline, both on and off the pitch, has been their downfall in the past. That mistake will not be made again under Jock Stein.

If only Northern Ireland had Danny Blanchflower to lead them. They shook the world when Danny captained them to the World Cup Quarter-Finals in 1958.

They're so unpredictable. Who would have given them a hope of qualifying? Who would have thought they'd play so badly recently?

They'll come third behind Spain and Yugoslavia in their Group — but they won't go down without a fight.



pip Russia to accompany Brazil into the second stage.

When I look at their squad I see several outstanding players — such as Dalglish, Souness and Hansen — and while it might be a shock for them to progress, I believe they can do it.

There's a lot of national pride about the Scots and this is bound to shine through in their performance.

They should beat New Zealand, but I can't see them getting much from Brazil, who are my tip to win the World Cup. This means they must beat Russia, which I believe they can do.

I can't see any glory for Northern Ireland. They are lacking the necessary class to make any kind of impact in Spain.

Billy Bingham's choice of players is obviously restricted, and I think he'll feel it most in attack. There aren't any top-class Irish strikers capable of puncturing the tight, well-drilled defences of Spain and Yugoslavia.

Pat Jennings could be a very busy man, particularly against men like Satrustegui, Zamora and Petrovic.

Pat Jennings, possibly Northern Ireland's busiest player in Spain.

Please turn to page 51 for Match Guide.

SHOOT: Congratulations on leading England into the World Cup Finals. There must have been times when you doubted whether it would happen — after losing to Switzerland in Basle, for instance.

KEEGAN: Yes, on a couple of occasions I was tempted to let my head drop, but I cheered up when I had a good look at our Group — and realised how unpredictable it was. It's ironic how things turned out, with us coming second to Hungary, the team we did the double over. It's given us a psychological boost.

SHOOT: In your early days you couldn't have dreamed of this. We remember

pressure is off the likes of me, Trevor Brooking, Ray Clemence, and Mick Mills. We're going to give everything we've got.

SHOOT: You've had a sensational season with Southampton. Voted Player of the Year by your fellow professionals and being top scorer in the First Division. But some people feel you can't possibly sustain your form. That you've peaked too soon and will tail off in Spain...

KEEGAN: Rubbish. That sort of talk really annoys me. A very negative attitude to what's been a very positive season for me. I finished up with 30 goals — around twice my usual tally. My



SPAIN 82 WORLD CUP CAPTAINS

No.20
**KEVIN
KEEGAN**
England

to occupy their time. On the field, it's up to me to make any necessary changes. If things are going wrong, say ten minutes after the kick-off, I'll try to put them right until the boss has a half-time talk.

SHOOT: Ron Greenwood has tried several experiments during the run-up period. Will we see England using different styles in Spain?

KEEGAN: I don't think so. We'll stick to the basic English type of game. You won't see us using a sweeper or putting a marker on a particular danger man. It would be dangerous.

SHOOT: The other teams in your Group are France, Czechoslovakia, and Kuwait. You kick-off against France. Do you regard them as the most dangerous?

KEEGAN: I would say they just have the edge over the other two. However, we know more about them — how they play, and their key players like Platini, Six and Tresor. Through playing on the continent I've been able to make a study of them and pass my knowledge on to Ron. The French are particularly deadly at free-kicks, as are the Czechs. We're not making the mistake of under-estimating Kuwait, bracketing them with the likes of El Salvador and Honduras. By all accounts they are real surprise-packets, capable of winning on their day.

SHOOT: Obviously you'll be aiming to finish top of your Group. Then you're almost certain to be up against the much-fancied West Germans.

HOW THEY QUALIFIED



Paul Mariner, England's scorer in their final game against Hungary at Wembley.

England 4, Norway 0
Norway 1, Rumania 1
Rumania 2, England 1
Switzerland 1, Norway 2
England 2, Switzerland 1
England 0, Rumania 0
Switzerland 2, Hungary 2
Hungary 1, Rumania 0
Norway 1, Hungary 2
Switzerland 2, England 1
Rumania 1, Norway 0
Hungary 1, England 3
Norway 1, Switzerland 1
Norway 2, England 1
Rumania 0, Hungary 0
Rumania 1, Switzerland 2
Hungary 3, Switzerland 0
Hungary 4, Norway 1
Switzerland 0, Rumania 0
England 1, Hungary 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	8	4	2	2	13	8	10
England	8	4	1	3	13	8	9
Rumania	8	2	4	2	5	5	8
Switzerland	8	2	3	3	9	12	7
Norway	8	2	2	4	8	15	6

how you struggled to reproduce your sparkling Liverpool form in your early England days. You were in and out of the side. Now you're captain.

KEEGAN: I had a hard time establishing myself, it's true. The turning point came when I went to play in Germany and my game became a blend of two different styles. My move certainly made me a better player.

SHOOT: For you, and several of the older members of the England team, going to Spain is the climax to your international careers.

KEEGAN: And we want to end them with a bang. We know that, whatever the outcome — even if we should win the Cup — there's no England future for us. The

confidence is sky-high, and I want to keep it that way!

SHOOT: At one time the conflict with Argentina over the Falklands threw England's World Cup participation in doubt. Did it affect the players?

KEEGAN: I'm sure it did, but we never talked about it. The decision over whether we'd go or stay at home was up to the Football Association and not us.

SHOOT: We know how proud you are to be England's captain. What exactly are your responsibilities?

KEEGAN: A lot of people think it's just a question of leading the team

out and calling "heads or tails". But there's a lot more to the job. Off the field, I act as a kind of spokesman, relaying the players' views to the boss, Ron Greenwood, and his assistants. For instance, the lads may have complaints about aspects of training. They may feel they're attending too many functions, or they're bored and want something

KEEGAN: The Germans are so strong that if this was a European competition, they'd be favourites to win it. Apart from their team work they have several individuals capable of winning a game single-handed. But they're not unbeatable. They've got strengths and weaknesses. Their biggest problem is holding on to their form. It could desert them quite suddenly.

SHOOT: If you're runners-up, which of Chile, Austria and Algeria would you expect to face?

KEEGAN: Austria. They're like the Germans, only without as much discipline. They love to attack, as we discovered when they beat us 4-3 in a friendly in 1979. They don't worry us. In fact, we're not scared of anyone. Let 'em all come!

SHOOT: Have you a message for England fans going to Spain?

KEEGAN: Just to tell them to make the trip for the right reason — to give us their support. The minority who plan to cause trouble will, I'm sure, wish they'd stayed

THE MANAGER RON GREENWOOD

THE likeable England boss will retire after the Finals, whatever England's fate; but let's hope the F.A. keep him involved in some capacity. When England trooped off the pitch at Oslo after losing to Norway last September England's World Cup hopes were slim. Greenwood may even have wished he'd gone through with his wish to quit after the victory in Hungary a few months previously. England came back from the dead, again, and go to Spain in a confident mood. Born in 1921, Greenwood was a commanding centre-half for Chelsea, Brentford and Fulham during the 50's.

His first job as a manager was with Oxford University. He moved on to non-League Walthamstow Avenue and then to Arsenal as assistant-manager. It was with West Ham that he had his first big chance as a manager and in his 13 years at Upton Park, Hammers fans saw very few unentertaining games.

They were successful, too, with F.A. Cup and European Cup Winners' Cup victories. West Ham also supplied three key men to England's 1966 World Cup-winning team: Bobby Moore, Martin Peters and Geoff Hurst.

Following Don Revie's defection to the Middle East in 1977, Greenwood took over as manager of England and since then, despite a few setbacks, England have reached the finals of the European Championship and now the World Cup.



at home. The Spanish security forces will deal with hooligans with an iron fist. My only fear is that some innocent fans might get involved. Mind you, the team can help prevent crowd flare-ups by putting on good performances.

SHOOT: Two other British sides will also be in Spain. How do you rate their chances?

KEEGAN: Scotland have a great set-up. Their manager, Jock Stein, has a fine track record, and commands the complete respect of his players. His decision to build on a nucleus of English League players has been well and truly

vindicated. The Scots are very unlucky in being placed in the toughest group, along with Brazil, Russia and New Zealand. But they're well-organised, their morale is sky-high, and second spot isn't beyond them. As for Northern Ireland, luck hasn't been kind to them either, drawn against the host country, Spain — and the odds are always heavily loaded in their favour — and Yugoslavia are dark horses. Scoring goals is a big problem for the Irish.

SHOOT: Which of the Latin countries pose the biggest threat?

KEEGAN: Brazil. They have so much fabulous skill. They've been my heroes since childhood. Although in our last meeting we fielded a weakened team through injuries, and lost 1-0, we could have beaten them with the right breaks. It's a waste of time trying to compete with the Brazilians on ball skills, but we have qualities they lack, like stamina, fighting spirit and team-work.

SHOOT: Apart from wanting to win the Cup, what are your hopes for the tournament?

KEEGAN: That the football is exciting and the British sides in particular do themselves justice. The game needs a boost to pull lost fans back.

SHOOT: What are your feelings about Ron Greenwood's decision to retire after Spain?

KEEGAN: We'll all miss him. He's done so much for us and the country. But I can understand his decision. We'll be entering another era, with the next European Championship and World Cup Finals to plan for, and he feels his successor should be there at the start. We were all delighted to

present him with a 2-0 win over Holland in his last Wembley game.

SHOOT: Who do you think will take over?

KEEGAN: It's got to be Bobby Robson. He has the right credentials. He's helped shape the present set-up.

SHOOT: And what of your own future?

KEEGAN: I'm 31 now, so I can't expect to be part of the new England. I've signed on for Southampton for another season and my twin-ambition will be to help them win the U.E.F.A. Cup and Championship.

GLORY-CHANCE!



WORLD CUP RECORD

Year	Opponents	Result			
1950	Chile	2-0	1966	Brazil	1-3
	USA	0-1		Uruguay	0-0
	Spain	0-1		Mexico	2-0
1954	Belgium	4-4		France	2-0
	Switzerland	2-0		Argentina	1-0
	Uruguay	2-4		Portugal	2-1
1958	USSR	2-2	1970	W. Germany	4-2
	Brazil	0-0		Rumania	1-0
	Austria	2-2		Brazil	0-1
1962	USSR	0-1		Czechoslovakia	1-0
	Hungary	1-2		W. Germany	2-3
	Argentina	3-1	Geoff Hurst hits England's fourth goal in the 1966 World Cup Final (above).		
	Bulgaria	0-0			

WHAT a start to the 1982 World Cup! The inaugural game pits South America's World Champions against the European runners-up. But will the opening game end in the traditional 0-0 draw? Can Argentine ball skills overcome the Belgians' disciplined team-work and tactical sophistication? Will both teams be too nervous to display their skills in front of the 120,000 crowd?

But as the Finals kick-off with a fascinating battle, all eyes will be on Argentine superstar Diego Maradona, who'll be making his World Cup debut. Widely hailed as the world's best footballer, can he prove his point to a TV audience of 130 million with a five-star performance against the Belgians? Or will he disappoint the fans as he did in the Copa de Oro in Uruguay 18 months ago, and as he has done in recent preparation games?

"I want to make it quite clear," says the 21-year-old Number 10, "that I'm not going to Spain with the idea of shining as an individual. Our target is to be World Champions, and I'm going to play for the benefit of the team — not for the benefit of Maradona."

Jorge (Cysterzpiller, Maradona's agent) doesn't agree with me, and he'd prefer me to turn in some outstanding individual displays.

"But I don't go along with his commercial attitude. He wants Argentina to win the World Cup thanks to me, but I prefer to win it thanks to the whole team."

"In any case, you won't see me trying any fancy ball tricks in the Argentina penalty area."

"Imagine how I'd feel if I let the team down by losing possession in a dangerous situation."

"Belgium are certainly a tough test in our opening game, and we know we're going to have to work hard for a result."

"But if they think they can beat Argentina by marking Maradona, they're mistaken."



Rene Vandereycken (left) says Belgium should 'freeze out' Diego Maradona (right). But the Argentinian star says: "That would be a mistake."



MARADONA The moment of truth

"All they'll do is make space for my team-mates, and we've got plenty of other players who can win games for us."

"In fact, I defy you to name another team that can pose so many different problems for the opposition."

"I realise people are saying I can't play against European-style man-to-man marking."

"Suddenly Matthaus was rated a genius because he marked me in our draw against West Germany. He practically crippled me with a high tackle in the first five minutes, that's for sure."

"But remember that we were still in the early stages of our training programme, and I hadn't at that stage got the speed and reflexes to shake him off."

"If you give me the ball 50 times in the World Cup, I promise I'll beat Matthaus 50 times."

"I'll admit I haven't been at my best during our preparation games, but I'll be on peak form in Spain. What has disappointed me is the fans' reaction."

"They've accused me of not training hard enough. They've said I'm too fat. They've told me to cut my hair. . ."

"After a while it gets you down. I'm not a machine. People expect to see me pulling rabbits out of the hat in every game."

"Maradona isn't going to Spain to do conjuring tricks — he's going to help Argentina win the World Cup."

Relaxed

In the meantime, Belgium's 'Red Devils' are approaching their opening test in a relaxed frame of mind. Their manager Guy Thys has even gone on record as predicting a 2-0 win for Argentina!

But how do they plan to stop the Argentine ball-playing machine and, in particular, Maradona?

After a season's experience of Italian-style man-to-man marking, Genoa and Belgium midfielder Rene Vandereycken reckons: "It would be a big mistake to devote

too much attention to Maradona because Argentina have other dangerous players too. The best tactic is to close down the space around him and cut off his ball supply."

"We have nothing to lose. I think it's obvious that Argentina are superior to us, and they have a good deal more top-level experience."

"But on the other hand, they will be more nervous than us because they need to start with a good result."

"We know that our really vital games are the ones against Hungary and El Salvador. And the traditional 0-0 draw would be a good result for us, putting a lot of pressure on the Hungarians."

"Our tactics are a question for the coach to sort out, but I see no reason for varying our successful formula which got us to the 1980 European Championship Final."

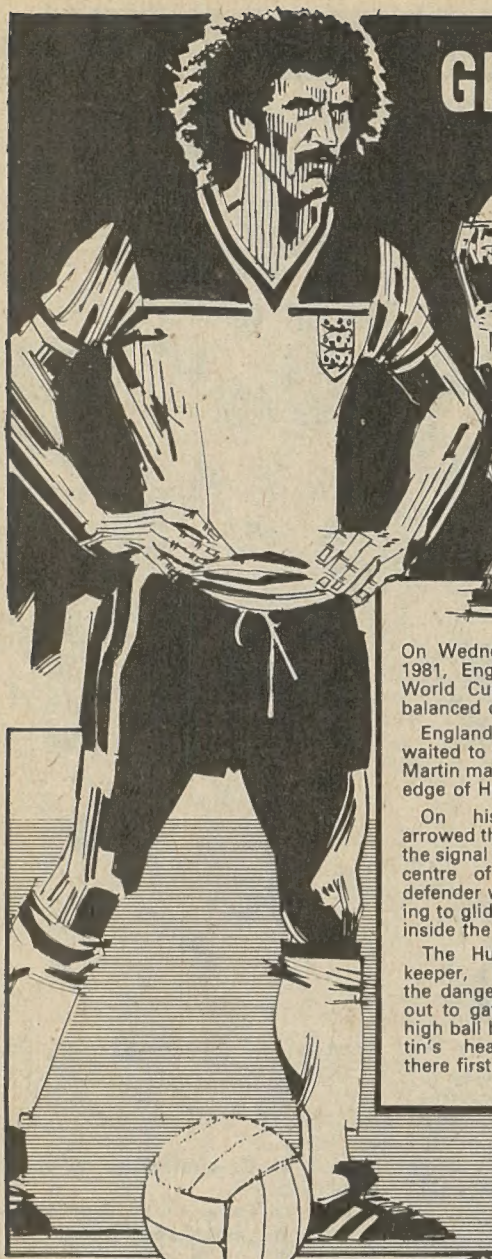
"The current team has been playing together for a few years now, and I think we have a well-defined pattern of play."

Tactically, I'd say we were well-disciplined."

"We handle the offside trap pretty well, and we put the opposition under continuous pressure. We try to adopt a 'total football' approach similar to that used by the Holland team of 1974, though of course we haven't got a Cruyff, a Neeskens and a Krol."

"We must simply take each match as it comes, and see how far we can get. It would be stupid to lose faith in ourselves if we lose to the world champions in our first match."

GILLETTE GOALS OF THE CENTURY



On Wednesday, 18th November, 1981, England's passage to the World Cup Finals in Spain was balanced on a knife edge.

England's Terry McDermott waited to take a free kick as Alvin Martin made his way upfield to the edge of Hungary's six yard box.

On his arrival McDermott arrowed the ball forward. This was the signal for Keegan to dart to the centre of the goal, taking his defender with him, and for Brooking to glide in unnoticed from just inside the box.

The Hungarian keeper, sensing the danger, came out to gather the high ball but Martin's head was there first.

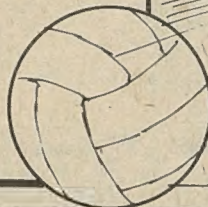
MARINER

KEEGAN

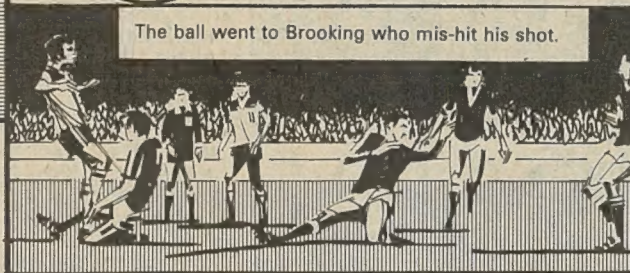
BROOKING

MARTIN
STARTS
RUN
FOR
GOAL

McDERMOTT



The ball went to Brooking who mis-hit his shot.



It was going wide but Paul Mariner had other ideas, getting to the ball and deflecting it with his right foot as he fell to the ground.

It was in the net and England had booked their passage to Spain.



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Said Mariner, "It was not a great Wembley goal, but, in terms of importance, it rated as one of the goals of the century."



ENGLAND v FRANCE... BILBAO... June 16th...

ENGLAND must follow the Liverpool style to beat France in our World Cup opener next week.

I believe it's vitally important to keep a clean sheet and nobody does this better than Liverpool, who have played European football every season for almost 20 years.

'ENGLAND MUST PLAY LIKE LIVERPOOL'

I respect France. They're a good team with plenty of outstanding qualities. But they can be beaten.

They've appeared to be a better side going forward than when opponents are taking the game to them.

We must take the initiative from the kick-off and put them under pressure... just as Liverpool do.

If we don't, Michel Platini could



"England's recent win against Holland increased confidence in the camp."



"Liverpool's win at Aberdeen two seasons ago was the kind of result we must emulate."

run riot in midfield and we'll be in trouble.

Everyone in the England camp is confident about the match. We know we can score goals. And we've shown over the last seven or eight months that we can also keep clean sheets.

We mustn't allow France the space to settle down and take control. If we find ourselves in a situation where we have to chase goals it could spell disaster.

France are like England in some respects. In fact, you can include the Czechs, too, in that all three of us are capable of beating the best on our day.

The problem has been that we've all been inconsistent.

France lost at home to Peru recently and then struggled against unfancied Bulgaria in Paris.

The Czechs had defeats by Austria and West Germany and must have wondered when they would win a game.

Some of our qualifying results were poor, but we've learnt from these experiences and the 1980 European Championship Finals.

In Italy we dictated play to a large extent against both Belgium and the host nation, only to be hit on the counter-attack.

The Belgians were, in fact, the best organised side I've ever played against. Even so, we should have beaten both teams.

We're a better side now and the

worries of the will-we won't-we go uncertainty of the past few weeks are behind us.

I realise that everyone in England is willing us to do well. The game against France will have the entire nation... kids, mums, dads, grand-parents, everyone... behind us.



RAY WILKINS
Writes for you

Someone described it as mega-pressure! For me, if I play, it will be the highlight of my career, competing at the very highest level in the game.

I believe France and ourselves will qualify for the Second Round, although if we beat France well I wonder if they'll be able to bounce back?

England have proved time and again that we can retrieve an 'impossible' situation.

There's no doubt that we have an easier group than Scotland. If France are our hardest opponents, they don't compare with Brazil. And while we face Czechoslovakia, the Scots have to play the Soviet Union,

who beat Czechoslovakia in the qualifying ties.

I wouldn't write-off Scotland, but it'll be a magnificent achievement if they qualify for the second phase.

For England the talking is almost over. The better the opposition the better we've played in recent years. I can remember us playing West Germany off the park in Munich — they admitted as much — even though we lost 2-1.

Problems

We beat Argentina 3-1 and then showed in the second-half against Brazil a year ago that we can pose problems even for the best.

What must we do to beat France? We need a collective performance of the highest standard. Our attitude must be right.

I feel I'm ready to prove myself at the top level. But whoever Ron Greenwood picks will, I'm sure, go out and do what's necessary to beat the French.

The country needs something to smile about.

Ray Wilkins

DOMINIQUE ROCHETEAU

The playboy can still play!

NEVER can a player have made more of an impression in just eight minutes of football as when Dominique Rocheteau took the field near the end of St.-Etienne's European Cup Final against Bayern Munich in 1976.

Even with his right thigh heavily bandaged, he produced enough electrifying ball skills to convince a European audience that he was a great player.

But somehow, that promise of greatness never materialised and, at 27, the talented striker travels to Spain knowing that it could be his

last chance to clinch a place in international football's hall of fame.

"You know, a week after that Final in Glasgow I had a three-hour operation on that thigh. Afterwards, in the clinic, I was overwhelmed by the public response and all the attention of the media.

"I am a timid, rather introverted person, and I thought it was all crazy. At that moment I said to myself 'I'm not cut out for this'."

And gradually Rocheteau's talents became mixed with a bohemian image.

He was labelled a rebel after falling out with the St. Etienne directors. Robert Herbin, the manager, even dropped him from the team.



Finally he was transferred to Paris St. Germain, where he seems to have found a new lease of life after being switched from right-winger to central striker.

But, apart from the psychological problems brought on by a French equivalent of 'The George Best Syndrome', Rocheteau's career has been sliced into fragments by a cruel run of injuries.

In just eight seasons he's had two operations on his right leg; recurring ligament problems in his

left knee; abductor problems; a broken nose; a broken collar-bone; a dislocated elbow; a seemingly endless run of pulled thigh muscles; and bouts of sickness brought on, according to the doctors, by acute anxiety.

Even as France prepare to do battle with England, Rocheteau is nursing an acute tendinitis. His only long-term solution seems to be another operation.

"Yes, I think I've missed more than two complete seasons thanks to injuries," agrees Rocheteau.

"I've refused the tendinitis operation for obvious reasons — I didn't want to miss the World Cup, and also my contract with Paris St. Germain expires this month..."

Dominique certainly seems more relaxed since his move to the French capital.

Electric

Rock music plays an enormous part in his life, and his living-room is stacked high with amplifiers, electric guitars and a complete drum-kit.

"This has all helped to foster my image as a bit of a drop-out, but I'm just a normal person of my generation who likes music and who enjoys playing it at a certain volume.

"What I like best about Paris is that I can walk in the streets without everyone recognising me, and I can go to the cinema or to pop concerts just like a normal person.

"I can even meet people who don't even recognise the name of Dominique Rocheteau."

MY HEADACHE - Hidalgo

Ron Greenwood talks in superlatives about his opposite number in England's crucial World Cup opener, France manager Michel Hidalgo. Greenwood, a soccer purist, admits he's a fan of the French team with their emphasis on the good things in football.

But what sort of a man is Hidalgo, who has been busy plotting England's downfall? What are his football philosophies?

Here Hidalgo explains some of his thoughts about soccer and gives an insight into the way we can expect France to play in the San Mames Stadium, Bilbao next week.

Tactics "Basically I prefer a 4-3-3 formation, but style of play must always be based on the players at your disposal. On occasions I've experimented with 4-4-2, because we've been short of central strikers, but I believe in attacking football."

Team selection "This is the national team manager's worst headache, and it hurts to have to leave out certain players. For midweek international games I often prefer a 'block' of players from one club to make up the backbone of the team, but for a World Cup you have more preparation time and a better chance of blending players from different clubs into an effective unit."

Defence "Organisation is the key-word in defence. Everybody must have a clear idea of his duties and of the

things he shouldn't do. Having said that, it's important not to over-organise the defence — you must leave room for personal initiative in certain situations. The other thing I insist on is that my defenders, once they have won the ball, should give top priority to constructing a move from the back and giving midfielders the ball in the sort of conditions each player likes. In other words, some players like the ball to arrive at their feet, while others prefer it five metres in front of them. Bad use of the ball in defence creates immediately a very dangerous situation."

Midfield "This is the key area in modern football. Ideally, midfielders should be all-rounders. They should know how to defend, create and score goals, while keeping an intelligent



tactical eye on the development of the game. But such men are rare, and this is why the best formula is to divide the midfield into attacking and defending elements, with a good balance between ball-winners and creative, talented players. In general, both in defence and midfield, I prefer a skilful, short-ball game, and I don't encourage our players to risk losing possession with 30 or 40-metre passes. I think an Ardiles, who could score more goals, would be my idea of a midfield player. I also disagree with giving midfielders man-to-man marking jobs, and I prefer to give them the freedom to play creative football. If they have to follow an opponent around the field, they are easily drawn into situations where their talent is wasted. In general, I prefer zonal marking."

Attack "This is the most difficult department in modern football, and I find myself torn between the type of inspirational player who can produce a few isolated moments of magic, and the harder-working type of forward who perhaps contributes more to the collective team-effort. I like to play at least one genuine winger who can beat his man and draw the central defenders out of position. Good use of the wings is fundamental, because most opposing teams can pack the centre of their defence without too many problems."

LIKELY LINE-UP CASTENEDA

JANVION	TRESOR	LOPEZ	BOSSIS
GIRESSE	PLATINI	LARIOS	
ROCHETEAU	LACOMBE	SIX	



New Zealand beat China in a play-off to reach the Finals. Now they face Scotland.

The match against them will be so competitive . . . but I just hope they have written us off.

And what of Russia? They will be a world removed from the Brazilians, methodical and risking nothing in their organised style.

I hope when we play them that it is a showdown with the winners going through, for in that situation we would be in the better frame of mind.

Scotland would be better equipped for the one off, more likely to rise to the occasion and more likely to respond to the crowd who will be behind us.

And just as I think a new Brazilian star will emerge, I feel that some of the Soviet stars, like Blokhin, will freeze on the big occasion.

I believe we can go through but any more than that would be a dream, although dreams do come true.

For me it is Brazil and West Germany for the Final with the host nation short on quality to go that far.

And there are a couple of nations I have changed my mind about. Belgium, for example, are a

'WE'RE TOO PROFESSIONAL FOR THE KIWIS'

ALL the weeks, the months, the years of talking are over. The previews, tips and chat don't matter at all. This is Act One, Scene One, Take One. The World Cup is in business.

This is the second time I have taken part in the final stages of the greatest sporting occasion on earth and although the last time was eight long years ago in the heart of West Germany, I can remember each and every moment so vividly.

And frankly, although we would all love to make phase two of the competition, I don't think anyone at home would believe that we had let them down if we came out of it all with the same kind of results and performances.

Remember West Germany? Three games, no defeats and only the heartbreak of going out of the tournament on goal difference.

I wonder what lies ahead of us now?

Worry

One thing for sure, before we kick a ball in earnest we will know all there is to know about New Zealand, Brazil and the USSR. And we will be taught in that order, with one team at a time to worry about.

Jock Stein likes the players to take one step at a time. No planning ahead, no worrying about the Soviets when you have New Zealand to play first. And we know that the boss' lowdown on the opposition will be spot on.

For example he travelled to the other side of the world to watch



Scotland were unlucky to only draw with Brazil in 1974.

New Zealand in action against the League of Ireland and came back loaded with spy material.

No trip is too tough for the Big Man when it comes to working out tactics that will stump his opponents.

I remain convinced that Scotland will be professional enough to handle The Kiwis . . . even on the biggest ever day in the history of their football.

Their adrenalin will be flowing and they will run until they drop.

But we should be able to handle it. I know it will be a hard game, but I back our professionalism to outpoint their enthusiasm.

Then comes Brazil in our show-

down in Seville and they don't come much tougher than that, as no-one in our squad will ever deny.

Yet our World Cup finals record against them is good for they were lucky to draw with us back in 1974 in West Germany and we already know so much about them this time.

On top of that we will learn more before the kick off because we will have seen them play Russia in their opening game.

We know about their great players like Zico . . . but I have a sneaking feeling that this World Cup is going to throw up another Brazilian wizard who so far is an unknown quantity.

far better team than I once gave them credit for and so too, I must own up, are England. They will be well prepared and will qualify.

But the one real feature of this tournament will be that it will prove there are no mugs in international football any more.

Among the so called minnows for example, Kuwait will be playing for fortunes and Celtic team-mate Pat Bonner played for Eire against Algeria recently and lost 3-1.

My one wish for the Finals?

That the individual stars be allowed to do their own thing, that the teams should be well drilled but NOT to the extent where it eclipses the talents of some of the finest football players in the world.

Brazil will show the way, and the other countries should follow their lead.

Gentlemen, the world is watching. Please don't let them down.

See you in two weeks . . .

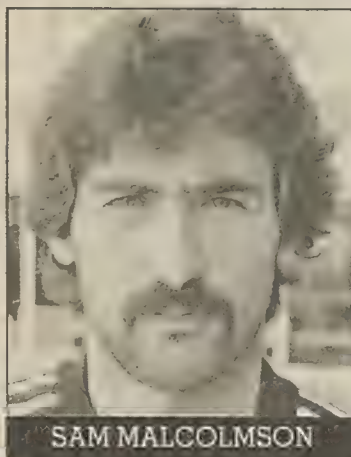
TARTAN TALK FROM
RANGERS' ALLY
DAWSON NEXT WEEK



ADRIAN ELRICK



ALLAN BOATH



SAM MALCOLMSON

And can New Zealand shock the soccer world once again and beat Scotland?

Says Malcolmson: "I'd like to think so. It's the team which plays best on the day which counts, and if Allan and I are picked we'll be playing more than 100 per cent for New Zealand."

"We'll be out there with a positive attitude and working our hardest," agrees Boath. "I wouldn't like to predict how we will fare in Spain."

"It will mean a lot to Allan and myself to play against Scotland, but it will mean a hundred times more to our families. I know that if I'm picked my mother will be so proud she'll walk up and down the street all day," laughs Malcolmson.

KIWI SCOTS WITH SOMETHING TO PROVE

THREE Scottish-born players will be in the New Zealand World Cup squad in Spain. Full-back Adrian Elrick went to New Zealand as a boy, but Allan Boath and Sam Malcolmson have played Scottish League football.

Lining up against Scotland in a World Cup match was the furthest thing from defender Malcolmson's mind when he left Scotland to emigrate to New Zealand in 1974.

For the former Airdrie player it was a "dream come true" when the Kiwis were drawn against Scotland in Group Six.

Malcolmson, known to New Zealand fans as 'Big Sam', can also play up front and now considers himself a Kiwi. But he admits: "Being born a Scot, I think blood is always thicker. I obviously want to see Scotland go as far as possible and would love them to accompany New Zealand into the Second Round."

Boath, who played tremendous football in the recent warm-up matches against Watford, arrived in New Zealand in 1978.

The midfielder man will be able to meet former Dundee United teammates Dave Narey, Paul Sturrock and Paul Hegarty. Another former team-mate, Ray Stewart, just

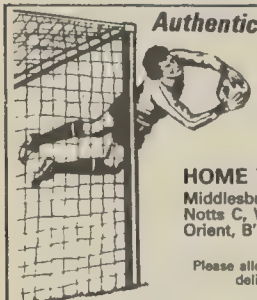
missed out.

The players will also see their families in Spain, and it appears battle lines will be formed, at least for 90 minutes when New Zealand meet Scotland in Malaga on June 15.

Boath says his father will definitely be shouting for Scotland. "But I know my mother will be supporting. After all, I left the household and have been away a long time on the other side of the world."

Malcolmson's parents will be similarly placed with their loyalties. "My father, a typical Scot, will wish New Zealand well but will be all for Scotland. With me being a favourite son, my mother will be behind New Zealand."

Scotland's David Narey (right) could be meeting up again with Allan Boath, a former Dundee United team-mate, in Spain.



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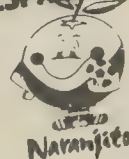
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Jennings can inspire Bingham's boys

THE cynics who predict that Northern Ireland's busiest player in the World Cup Finals will be their goalkeeper would do well to remember that Pat Jennings is still regarded throughout Europe as a world-class professional.

Admittedly Jennings will be 37 five days before Northern Ireland's opening Group Five match against Yugoslavia.

And to that must be added that the groin injury he sustained in an F.A. Cup Third Round tie against, ironically, Spurs last January has limited the gifted Ulsterman to a handful of appearances since.

But with his vast experience, ice-cool nerve and unquestionable influence on the players in front of him, Jennings is one of, if not the key member of manager Billy Bingham's gallant squad.

Jennings, whose next international landmark will surely be his 100th cap, is one man capable of instilling order, discipline and the whiff of possible success into his colleagues.

Ever modest, Jennings prefers to let his performances on the field speak for him.

But he admits: "I was more relieved than surprised about getting into my first World Cup

Finals. I really thought it had all passed me by.

"I also knew that this was my best-ever chance, and if we slipped up with a home fixture against Israel it would have hurt."

Jennings' contribution to Ireland's qualification was immense.

He played in six of their eight games en route to Spain and conceded only two goals!

And one glance at Ireland's record of six goals scored and only three conceded says it all about their style and, logically, how Bingham must prepare for the gritty if unpredictable Yugoslavs.

Refuse

Clearly the problem of match practice is something of which Jennings and Bingham are aware. But it is one they refuse to play upon. And if Jennings is not the man who lines up in goal on June 17 then Middlesbrough's Jim Platt, who defied everyone during Ireland's victory in the 1980 Home International Championship, is an able and experienced deputy.

But Bingham has a squad containing players from the lower Divisions, men who would probably not figure in the plans of England or Scotland if eligible.

Their great strength is teamwork and unselfish play, sparked by their handful of truly class individuals.

Sammy McIlroy of Stoke, Noel Brotherston of Blackburn, Martin O'Neill of Norwich and Mal Donaghy of promoted Luton fall into this category.

But above them all stands the figure of Jennings.

He adds: "It is a unique achievement to qualify when you look at the size of our country and the number of players at our disposal.

"Being realistic we are not going to emerge as World Champions, but neither are we going out to Spain for the ride.

"We have already proved what we can do, including winning the Home International title.

"On the other hand there is nothing like the pressure on us that exists on other nations. We can genuinely do our best and enjoy ourselves.

"On a personal note, I would be kidding myself if I said I was exactly the same player today as I was six years ago. But I think my record during those recent years bears examination."



MILJANIC DISCOUNTS THE IRISH

likely to release them for friendly games.

"Anyway, they're all intelligent, experienced and skilful enough to be able to produce the goods when it counts.

"Having said that, we're not under-estimating Northern Ireland, and we know that this is a 'death-or-glory' game for us.

"Anything other than a win would put a lot of pressure on us, and the Irish can be a difficult side to beat.

"They've got no outstanding individuals, but they form a useful collective unit — and it's this type of side than can be frustrating when you're looking for a result.

'Practical'

"The Irish are fast, and because most of them play with English clubs, they play practical football, and they play it with dynamism and strength.

"They also have a good deal of national pride which seems to give them that little bit extra.

"I'm convinced the key to the game will be in midfield, and I'm sure the superior international experience of men like Surjak, Slijivo and Petrovic will give us an important advantage.

"I believe we also have more scoring power than the Irish, and this could be a fundamental factor not only in our direct confrontation but also in our matches against Honduras.

"With all due respect to the Irish, we're going to kick off with a win..."

I CAN'T see Spain or Yugoslavia having too many problems in qualifying from Group Five. The only thing to decide is who finishes first and who finishes second."

Those are the words of Yugoslavia's manager Miljan Miljanic, and it remains to be seen whether Billy Bingham's lads can make him eat them in the La Romareda stadium next Thursday.

"We're cool, calm and optimistic," he adds, "and we have a good deal less to worry about than teams in other groups."

Miljanic's confidence is riding so high that he hasn't even bothered to arrange any practice games for his team in the months that led up to the World Cup Finals.

His reserves recently played in the 2-0 win over Rumania, and Miljanic explained: "I just wanted a chance to look at some of the 'fringe men' before filling the final places in my squad.

"There seemed to be no point in playing preparation games when so many of my players were with overseas clubs who weren't

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Left-back Gary Williams makes a timely interception to stop Reinhold Mathy.

THE European Champions Cup is staying in England for a record sixth successive year — thanks to Aston Villa. West Germany's Bayern Munich started as red-hot favourites to win the Final and put Villa under the cosh for much of the game. But Tony Barton's men defended magnificently and clinched a memorable victory in Rotterdam with a second-half goal from Peter Withe.



Villa's heroes. Substitute goalkeeper Nigel Spink, who played 81 minutes of inspired soccer, and scorer Withe.



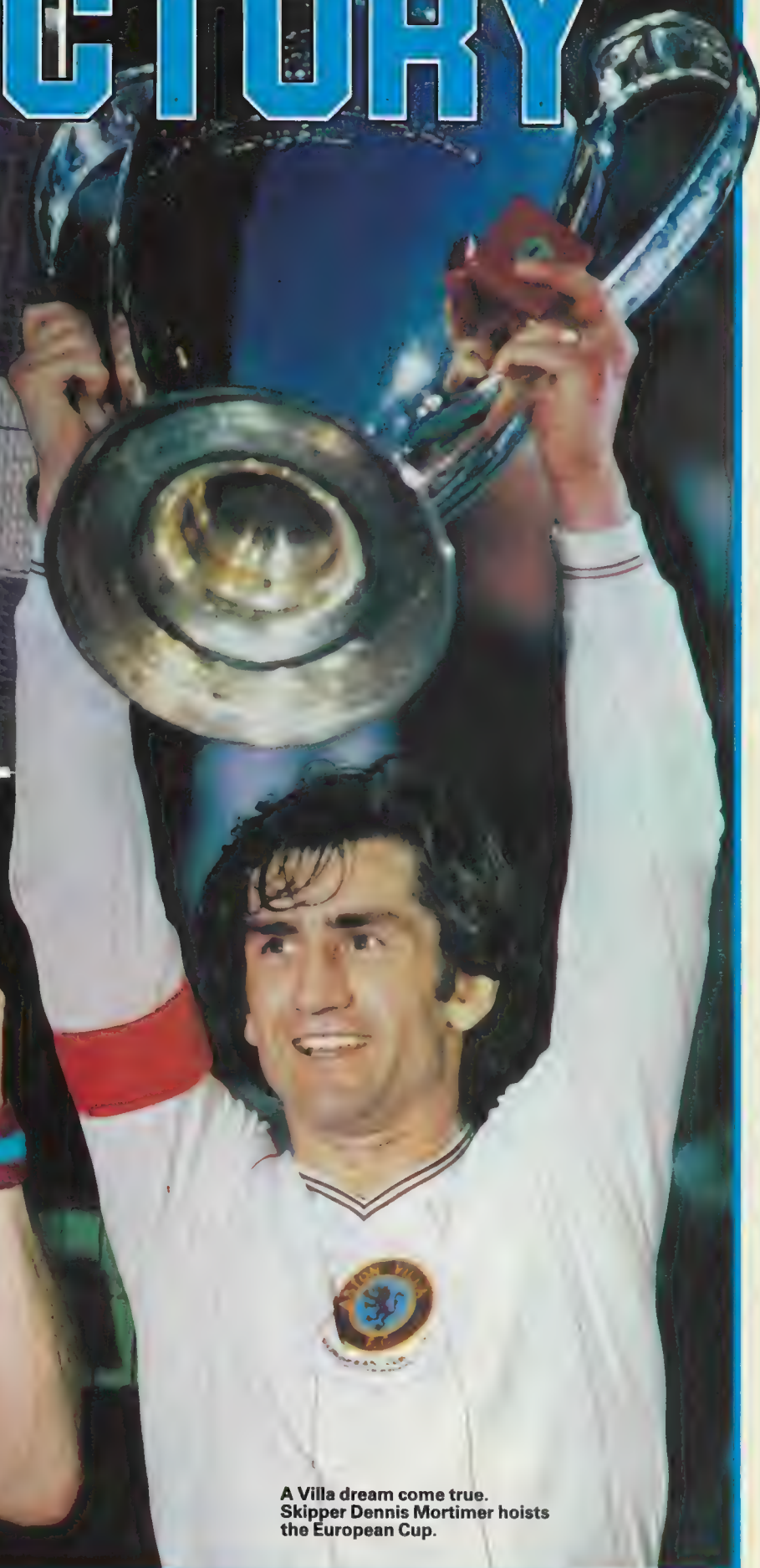
Bayern dangerman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge gets in a shot despite the attention of Allan Evans.



FOR VICTORY

11 Calcuttators

The goal which means so much to Villa. Peter Withe sidefoots home from close range after great work by Tony Morley and Gary Shaw.



A Villa dream come true. Skipper Dennis Mortimer hoists the European Cup.

SHOOT!



**GARY
SHAW**

Soccer as I see it



Nigel turns in performances like that all the time. Unfortunately he normally plays before a few hundred fans and the odd dog as Jimmy Rimmer's understudy.

We all felt sick for Jimmy who went off injured. It's not well known that Jimmy was in the Manchester United squad that won the European Cup in 1968. Alex Stepney wore the jersey against Benfica and Jimmy sat on the bench.

There were other magnificent performances. If England are looking for a full-back for the next World Cup, Gary Williams could be their man.

He's probably Villa's most improved player, sound in defence with a real footballing brain.

Allan Evans, Des Bremner, Gordon Cowans and Peter Withe ... all great players that night. There can't have been many mis-hit goals in European Cup Finals, so Peter's mis-cue after Tony Morley and I had carved the opening gave us kittens till it swept over the line.

We realise now that English clubs should fear nothing in foreign competitions. Bayern, vastly more experienced than us, were terribly nervous before the start, and shattered afterwards!

'We did it! So can England'

MY dearest wish is that Kevin Keegan and his England team will feed-off Aston Villa's historic efforts in the European Cup Final and rattle the form-books at the World Cup Finals.

We defied the odds to beat mighty Bayern Munich in Rotterdam — and England can do the same in Spain.

What a fillip we gave the England lads by showing that these Germans can be beaten.

Liverpool three times, Nottingham Forest twice, now Aston Villa have won the European Cup. It proves to me that our players can beat the best in the world.

I have the feeling that an enormous amount of national pride is coursing through Britain at the moment, some of it generated by Villa's exploits.

I've given my European Cup winners' medal to dad. Anything I win goes straight to him. Who would have believed that at 21, Championship and European Cup medals would be in my collection?

With World Cup fervour beginning to rage, these are emotional times. Yes, I cried a bit after Peter Withe's goal sank Bayern.

So did some of the other Villa players. Tony Barton, our manager, was quite overcome, embracing every member of the victorious team as we trudged wearily off the pitch.

If Villa's fans were the villains of Anderlecht, they became the angels of Rotterdam. I wish their critics had praised them for their good behaviour this time.

They hailed us as heroes, and I suppose we were to a man that night. Nigel Spink, Mr Who? to most people before the Final, was absolutely bombarded by well-wishers after playing so brilliantly for so long to defy Rummenigge, Hoeness and Breitner.

His match-winning qualities did not surprise me. I played with Nigel for two seasons in Villa's reserve team. He joined the club in 1977 from Chelmsford City, a few weeks before I signed.

Stand-in goalkeeper Nigel Spink was just one of many Villa heroes in Holland.

We sat in the dressing room as calmly as if we were changing for a normal Saturday game. We'd taken a few photographs, soaked up the atmosphere, and waved to our wives and girlfriends in the stand.

Did I go to bed that night? I really can't remember. What a celebration we had at our hotel in Amsterdam. It was a lovely touch for Villa to invite all the backroom staff.

Goalscorer Peter Withe was no more important than the groundsman, the office girls and the scouts who had accompanied us.

You would be misguided to believe that Villa have little left to achieve. I scored only 14 goals last season, a poor record for a striker. Our League form was inconsistent. Our players have not received too much recognition at international level.

Gordon Cowans, Allan Evans, Gary Williams and the rest of the squad want to play so well next season that we become as well known for our performances in international shirts as we do for Aston Villa.

But our priority is to beat the best of Europe again ... and retain that lovely, lovely trophy.





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World Cup countdown...

FISCHER DROPPED

WEST GERMANY'S World Cup plans took a knock when Rinus Michels, boss of Cologne, dropped centre forward Klaus Fischer.

He had been a great success, scoring goals regularly for the national team since breaking a leg, but had barely scored this season in League games.



National team boss Jupp Derwall could still keep Fischer for he is match fit and will sharpen up again in warm-up matches. He is the perfect foil for the class and skill of Rummenigge, top scorer in the qualifying games, for Fischer is a typical tank-type.

YOU can't please everybody, as Chile found to their cost when they played a friendly against Spanish club Oviedo as a public relations exercise similar to England's trip to Bilbao.

The Spanish Press found the match very entertaining, but the Chilean Press described their team's performance as shameful and sparked off a rift between players and reporters.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA's team manager Dr Jozef Venglos has won his battle to get Antonin Panenka in his World Cup squad, despite him being a professional with SC Rapid whom he helped to the Austrian Championship. He is in the official World Cup 40, which includes eight men yet to win their first full cap.

SHOOTING PRACTICE

THE West Germans will be banging in goals in two friendlies to be played during their final spell in the Black Forest before flying to Spain.

Between June 2 and June 9 they will train together every day, morning and afternoon, and then in the evenings play against local teams.

Two matches already confirmed are against a Southern Bavaria Youth XI and the Bavaria Regional FA Amateur selection.

No injuries and plenty of shooting practice is what manager Jupp Derwall clearly wants.

FRANCE'S World Cup goalkeeper is almost sure to be Jean Castaneda of St. Etienne.

He played with lowly neighbours Olympique de St. Etienne until he was 23 and then had to

wait six years in the shadow of first choice, the Yugoslav star keeper Ivan Curkovic. Asked recently what he thinks a player needs to be successful at top level he replied: "First, and most important, you must love the game. Then you must be serious about it, work hard and be ambitious."

WORLD WIDE



Compiled by CHRIS DAVIES

PLAIN CLOTHES COPS

THE Spanish security forces have announced that a high proportion of the 31,500 special police on duty during the World Cup Finals will be in civilian clothes "in order not to give the fans the impression that they're constantly under vigilance."

So if you're travelling to Spain, don't be in a hurry to pick a fight with a 'civilian'.

As members of a judo team found to their cost a couple of years ago, he's just as likely to draw a gun . . . and use it.

BELLINI, Brazil's first World Cup winning captain (1958) has been invited by the Brazilian F.A. to carry Brazil's flag in the opening ceremony of the 1982 World Cup in Barcelona. "I am greatly honoured," was Bellini's reaction.

countdown...

Rossi boost

PAOLO ROSSI, Italy's greatest hope for a good World Cup in view of their pathetic goal-scoring record in the last 18 months, made a good return after two years' suspension when Juventus won 5-1 away in Udine to Udinese.

Rossi laid on the pass for Cabrini to score the second goal and netted the third himself with a header.

Taken off after an hour, clearly because he could not hope to be fully match fit, Rossi was watched by national team boss Enzo Bearzot who said afterwards that he was now confident that Rossi (right) would be back to his brilliant best by the time the World Cup began.

He added that he had been very impressed by right winger Franco Causio, 33, and now with Udinese and has included him in his squad.

Dominated by Juventus men, Causio would fit in easily for he spent most of his career with the Turin club.

'Belgium the Holland of 82' says MENOTTI

THE World Cup kicks-off on June 13th in Barcelona with an intriguing game between Argentina and Belgium . . . a fascinating contrast of styles.

Argentina, with their traditional South American skills. And Belgium, who can be as difficult to watch as to break down.

Cesar Menotti, who masterminded Argentina's World Cup success in 1978, has ensured his team has already 'played' Belgium many times.

"I've had my first team playing against reserves who have operated the same system as Belgium use," says Menotti.

"I want my players to know what they're up against. I rate Belgium highly. They're the Holland of 1982."

"The Belgians have great mobility and the back-four always support their attacks."

"They don't play a sweeper nor do their players chase after opposing forwards. The defence plays in a line and gives away very little space. I have a dossier on every Belgian player and they have all been under constant surveillance since the draw was made."

"Belgium's understanding must be just about the best of all the Finalists with the possible exception of ours. The side has been together a long time and they



World Cup countdown... World Cup



KEMPES 'UNWANTED'

IT LOOKS as though Mario Kempes will be up for sale again after the World Cup Finals.

River Plate simply can't keep up their payments on his 3 million dollar transfer from Valencia, and their attempts to spread payments over a longer period have simply meant they're paying a not-too-small fortune in interest.

Up to now they've paid Valencia around 1½ million dollars, but there are still just over 2 million outstanding.

So River are now likely to return Kempes to the Spanish club after El Matador has played just 29 games for them, scoring 15 goals in the process.

This means that the 1½ million already handed over simply 'disappears', and the club has paid over 300,000 dollars to Kempes in salary and match bonuses. So Mario has cost the Buenos Aires club £35,500 per match!

I know they're nicknamed The Millionaires, but this is ridiculous!

To make matters worse, Valencia don't want Kempes back, and they're simply going to transfer list the 1978 hero again, with a more modest price tag of around £1m.

SHOOT was heavily criticised in some quarters when we ran a feature over three years ago entitled "Mario Kempes — Superstar or 12-day Wonder?"

Who would have thought that four years after his triumphant two goals against Holland he'd be virtually unwanted...

CHILE's manager Luis Santibanez has drawn up a black-list of sports writers whom he's declared "enemies of the national team". They're unlikely to obtain many favours from the team during the World Cup...

Three weeks is enough

BERNARD LACOMBE, interviewed recently, was asked: how do you compare the present French team with that of 1978 and what do you think is the ideal preparation? Months like the South Americans, or practically none like the British?

Lacombe feels that France, four years on, are wiser now and clearly more experienced, and also have a lot of good young players to call on too.

He thinks the three weeks that France will have together is the ideal and is confident his country will do very well in Spain.



ULI STIELIKE, the Real Madrid and West Germany star, shows son Christian some of the trophies he's won during his career. No doubt dad has room in his cabinet for one more medal, hopefully to be picked up in Madrid on July 11th.

NEWS FLASHES

● **THE SPANIARDS** are now totting up the bills for the modernisation of their TV facilities to bring them up to World Cup standard. The total looks like being around a hundred million pounds.

● **France's left-back** Maxime Bossis has just been voted Footballer of the Year on the other side of the Channel. Second was Bordeaux midfielder Alain Giresse. National idol Michel Platini came third. And Paris St. Germain striker Dominique Rocheteau clinched fourth place after his best season for a long while.

● **The local authorities in Bilbao** have granted all bars, pubs and clubs in the city an extra hour's extension during the World Cup. This means most bars can stay open until around 3 a.m. Whether their clients will be vertical or horizontal by this time is open to discussion...

● **One country that doesn't** seem too convinced about the weather being hot in Spain in June is Chile. The squad have been given anti-flu injections...

● **Czech captain and** centre-forward Zdenek Nehoda scored only eight goals in the 30-match League campaign just completed.

● **The Spanish authorities** have created extra space in their prisons. For the World Cup an extra 2,000 "vacancies" have been provided.

● **Yugoslavia have taken** their World Cup squad with wives and girlfriends of the players for an end of season rest at the lakeside resort of Orid.

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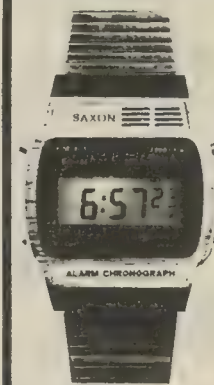
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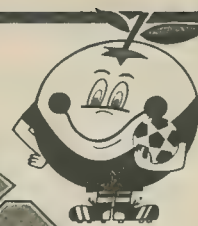
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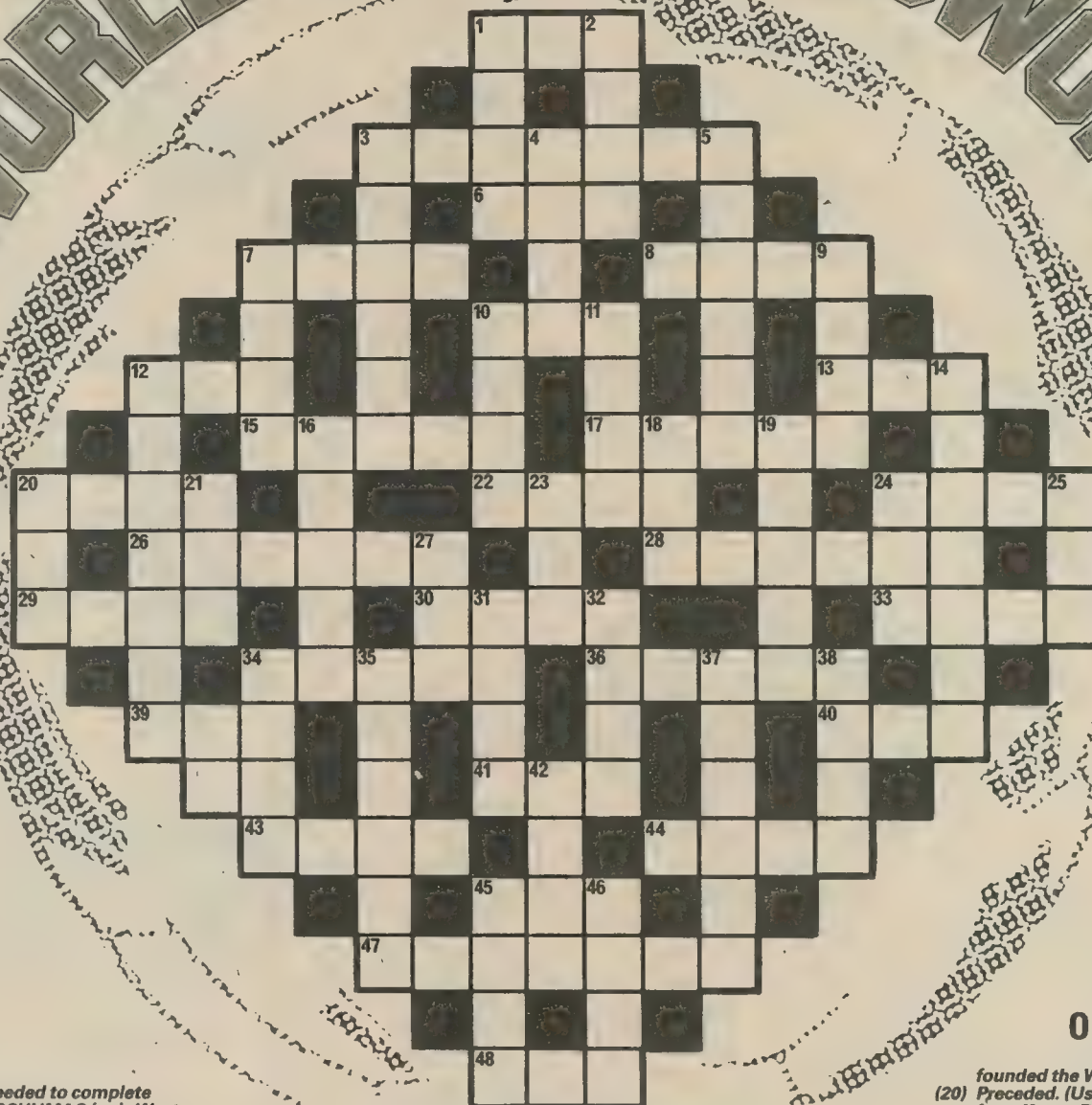
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WORLD CUP CROSSWORD



**ANSWERS
ON PAGE 54**

ACROSS:

- (1) What is needed to complete HARALD SCHUMAC (---); West German goalkeeper? (3)
- (3) Surname of Northern Ireland team manager. (7)
- (6) What the supporters might get from the Spanish sun! (3)
- (7) Record of the matches for cinema or TV. (4)
- (8) Way out of the stadium. (4)
- (10) What is required to complete LUIZ (---)EIRA of 26 Across? (3)
- (12) What all the teams endeavour to do! (3)
- (13) The supporters might need this to find their way around Spain. (3)
- (15) Take five letters from STEVE COPPELL to make "incline". (5)
- (17) Surname of England's 1966 World Cup winning captain. (5)
- (20) Walk falteringly due to injury. (4)
- (22) Marked portion of the field of play. (4)
- (24) One way for the supporters to travel! (4)
- (26) Triple World Cup winners. (6)
- (28) Surname of National Team Manager when England won the World Cup. (6)
- (29) Gerry —, of 42 Down. (4)
- (30) Choice of this is decided by the toss of a coin. (4)
- (33) Most famous goalscorer for 26 Across who won his first World Cup Winners medal in 1958 at the age of 17. (4)

- (34) Make the initial letters of Greece, Albania, Egypt, Uganda and Sweden into a word meaning "customary practice". (5)
- (36) Jogs — from five letters found in Conny Torstensson of Sweden. (5)
- (39) Japanese currency (using three letters from Kenya). (3)
- (40) If Markov (Bulgaria) gives "ARM"; what does Shalov (Yugoslavia) give? (3)
- (41) Andre —, French international keeper. (3)
- (43) — Blokhin; star goalscorer for U.S.S.R. and Dynamo Kiev. (4)
- (44) Top Nigerian goalkeeper with same name as a famous Irish player. (4)
- (45) What is needed to complete WALTER OLIV(---) of Uruguay? (3)
- (47) He was top scorer in the 1966 World Cup with 9 goals (for Portugal). (7)
- (48) If Zaire, Sudan and China make "RAN"; what do Libya, Niger and Haiti make? (3)

DOWN:

- (1) Roger —, one of England's winning squad in 1966. (4)
- (2) Scorer of Germany's winning goal in the 1954 World Cup Final. (4)
- (3) Venue of England's World Cup matches in Spain. (6)
- (4) Soccer is this particular one! (4)
- (5) Country. Venue of the 1970 World Cup Finals. (6)
- (7) The enthusiastic supporters. (4)
- (9) The ref must watch the passing of this accurately. (4)
- (10) Use the first two letters each from Peru and Algeria to make an earnest request. (4)
- (11) City. Venue of the 1934 World Cup Final. (4)
- (12) Stadium. Scene of England's 1966 World Cup Triumph. (7)
- (14) The men who actually compete. (7)
- (16) Idles in the Spanish sun, perhaps! (5)
- (18) If England, Chile and Hungary give "GIN"; what do Scotland, Italy and Turkey give? (3)
- (19) Surname of French lawyer who

- founded the World Cup. (5)
- (20) Preceded. (Using three letters from Kenny Dalglish) (3)
- (21) Take three letters from Cyprus to make "inquire inquisitively". (3)
- (23) Colour of card shown when a sending-off occurs. (3)
- (24) Johnny —, Dutch international forward. (3)
- (25) Francis —, one of England's 1970 World Cup squad. (3)
- (27) Limb or one match of a two match contest. (3)
- (31) Take four letters from West Germany to give "close". (4)
- (32) Remain (using two letters found in each word of West Germany). (4)
- (34) Take "RASH" from Honduras and "unfasten" the remainder! (4)
- (35) Use three letters each from DALGLISH and KEEGAN to make a word meaning "blame without proof". (6)
- (37) One of the two Spanish venues of the Finals Group Two matches. (6)
- (38) An attempt to score. (4)
- (42) Team in Qualifying Group Two who just failed to make it to the Finals. (4)
- (45) Catch sight of. (From the initials of Yugoslavia, Ethiopia, Portugal and Spain). (4)
- (46) Remove "GET" from Bettega (Italy) and make "assist" from the remainder. (4)

'A WORLD CUP MEDAL - NO IMPOSSIBLE DREAM'

I'M savouring every second of this highspot of my international career — preparing for our bid to capture the World Cup in Spain.

We may not be among the favourites to win it, but we're not here to make up the numbers. At one stage last season it looked as though I might not see it through in the Liverpool first team. Yet I finished up as a regular and with another Championship medal in my collection.

So getting a World Cup winner's medal is no impossible dream.

My immediate objective is a place in the team against France. I know I'm on the "probables" list, but I'm taking nothing for granted until my name appears on the team sheet.

Playing for England is like playing for Liverpool, where you're never allowed to become complacent.

There's nothing more frustrating than being on the fringe of the Liverpool first team for years and not winning a regular place.

I've seen so many reserves desperate to play a big part in helping to win the major honours eventually realise a Reds' senior shirt is never going to be their personal property.

Like being an understudy and never the star.

There are only eleven places and the competition is harder to beat than at any other club in Britain.

But it's not the end of the world for these "nearly" men. To label



PHIL THOMPSON
My soccer world

Helping England to defeat Holland at Wembley recently. Now Phil is looking to continue the fine work for his country during the World Cup Finals.

them as rejects would be unfair.

Usually they're just plain unlucky that the man in possession has a slight edge and fits more neatly into Liverpool's unique playing pattern. A move to another club can give their careers a tremendous boost.

Several in recent years have faced up to the terrible wrench of leaving Anfield to become successes elsewhere and give hope to those left behind struggling to make the grade.

One who did that is Colin Irwin. Like me, he came to Anfield from school and looked likely to graduate to the first team. Only yours truly was one of the players in his way!

Several times Colin stepped in for either Alan Hansen or me. But as soon as we were fit, it was back to Central League duty for him.

I believe his biggest setback was not being picked for the 1981 European Cup Final after filling my place in the Semi-Final second-leg against Bayern Munich. I was fit for the Final and Bob Paisley gave me the nod.

Swansea manager John Toshack knew Colin's capabilities through playing with him and not only bought him but paid him the compliment of giving him the captaincy.

Another lad who played with Colin in that 1981 European Semi and found himself in the same situation was Richard Money. Bought from Fulham, Richard left us for Second Division Luton Town. I remember him remarking after returning from a loan period with The Hatters: "They're a real First Division set-up."

I've often enjoyed watching him on TV this season helping Luton to the Championship and promotion. We were all sorry when he left. Mainly because we really rated him as a player. But the Liverpool card

school also miss his — pardon the pun — money. Richard's card-playing is not as good as his football!

Another former Anfielder who's had a glorious season is Frank McGarvey who came to us from St. Mirren, hailed as a second Kenny Dalglish. Unfortunately for him, Kenny enjoyed a long injury-free spell, so his chances to impress came few and far between. If only he'd hung around longer, Frank might have got in ahead of Ian Rush.

Celtic Scorer

Instead, Frank reluctantly returned North of the Border — he really liked living on Merseyside — and started whacking in the goals for Celtic that have brought them two Championships in a row.

Dave Fairclough has departed for Toronto Blizzard, a Canadian club playing in the NASL. Scorer of many vital goals — often after being called on as sub — he got a bad cartilage injury and then found himself facing even stronger competition from the likes of Dave Johnson and Sammy Lee.

I think he's made a good move in going to America. I'd have been tempted if I couldn't fit in at Anfield. The standard of football is

improving over there, with clubs now recruiting younger "class" players from all over the world in preference to British ones at the fag-end of their careers.

A player Liverpool could regret letting go is Dave Watson, who's just won promotion with Norwich City. I've always rated Dave highly and I was astonished when I learnt he'd left for Carrow Road at the start of last season. I hope the directors there have given the scout concerned a big bonus for what must be the best bargain buy!

The latest man to move is Kevin Sheedy, who has signed for our Merseyside rivals Everton. Not many players make such a move, and I wish Kevin the best of luck at his new club.

However, right now I'm keyed up for the call to play for England against France in our first World Cup game.

A good win will set us up to finish top of our Group after playing Czechoslovakia and Kuwait.



Dave Watson has done well since moving from Liverpool, helping Norwich back to the First Division.

Phil Thompson

Spanish strips

As you know, there are 24 teams playing in Spain for the 1982 World Cup. Each wearing a different strip. And each is available as a Subbuteo team. In fact, there are nearly 300 different Subbuteo teams, representing 650 national and international soccer clubs.



David Lambert and Jon Booth battle for the title.

15 yr. old to play for England.

IT HAS been confirmed that a Lincolnshire lad is to play for England in Spain this summer.

Fifteen year old David Lambert from Raithby near Lincoln is England's hope for the 1982 Junior Subbuteo World Cup.



World Class

The British Subbuteo Finals took place at the F.A. headquarters in London's Lancaster Gate.

Watching the match was soccer fan Bob Noble from Tottenham. We asked him what he thought of the new English champ? "Sheer world class", said Bob.

Fun

But it's not just the top players who are having all the fun. Football fans all over the country are playing Sub-

buteo, the world famous table-top soccer game. Based on the rules of Association Football, it's the nearest thing to real-life football!

And, of course, the set of the moment is the Subbuteo FIFA World Cup Edition.

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Table Soccer

**HOURS OF FUN AT
YOUR FINGERTIPS.**

WEST Germany, Champions of Europe, have the best team in the World Cup Finals according to our exclusive Form Guide, a whisker ahead of holders Argentina.

We gave points out of ten for the four departments in each side and West Germany, without a noticeable weakness, amassed 36 points.

And as it isn't possible to reach perfection in soccer — i.e. ten out of ten — 36 is virtually the highest mark available.

In goal Toni Schumacher, Tony Woodcock's Cologne captain, has taken over from the great Sepp Maier.

Toni — real name Harald — may not yet have Maier's stature, but he's been quietly efficient in West Germany's goal and doesn't lack confidence.

"Clemence? Nothing, Shilton? No way. Me the best," he's said to Woodcock in his broken English after club games.

The German back-four of Kaltz, Förster, Stielike and Briegel has been together for two years and the understanding between them is almost telepathic.

The only headache manager Jupp Derwall has in midfield is who to leave out.

Paul Breitner is a must as the

driving force. For certain games Lothar Matthaus may be drafted in to do a marking job. He successfully blotted out Zico and Maradona when the Germans went to South America in March.

Felix Magath is fit again after a cartilage operation. Then there's Hansi Müller or Wolfgang Dremmler of Bayern. And watch out for Cologne's young Stefan Engels if he's in the final 22.

Up front there is Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, who could easily emerge as the player of the tournament. Centre-forwards Klaus Fischer and Horst Hrubesch are proven goalscorers, while Pierre Littbarski has emerged on the right wing.

World-class

Argentina have few problems other than in attack. Goalkeeper Ubaldo Fillol is world-class.

The back-four of Olguin, Luis Galvan, Passarella and Tarantini is the same unit that won the 1978 World Cup.

Any midfield with Maradona must be special, especially if Ossie Ardiles is there as well. Ball-winner Gallego is as aggressive as ever.

Mario Kempes, star of 1978, isn't the player he was, so Ramon Diaz may be the ace in attack. But Argentina have had too many low scoring draws or 1-0 wins in their build-up.

Menotti, though, will get it right on the night as he did four years ago when Argentina were showing similar poor form in the run-up to the Finals.

Brazil have two problem areas, although perhaps it's harsh on

WORLD CUP FORM GUIDE

	Goalkeeper	Defence	Midfield	Attack	Total
Algeria	7	7	7	6	27
Argentina	9	9	8	7	35
Austria	8	8	8	8	32
Belgium	8	9	8	7	32
Brazil	8	9	9	7	33
Cameroon	8	7	6	6	27
Chile	8	8	7	8	31
Czechoslovakia	8	8	9	7	32
El Salvador	7	8	7	6	28
England	8	8	8	8	32
France	8	8	9	7	32
Honduras	7	7	6	6	26
Hungary	8	8	8	7	31
Italy	8	8	8	7	31
Kuwait	7	7	7	7	28
New Zealand	7	7	7	7	28
N. Ireland	8	7	7	7	29
Peru	8	8	8	8	32
Poland	8	8	8	7	31
Scotland	8	8	7	7	30
Spain	9	8	9	8	34
USSR	8	8	8	9	33
W. Germany	9	9	9	9	36
Yugoslavia	8	8	8	8	32

goalkeeper Waldir Peres because he acquitted himself well on the tour of Europe last year.

Tele Santana doesn't have regular goalscorers in attack. Brazil tend to look to their midfielders — Zico and Socrates — and defenders — Junior, in particular — for goals and may use a 4-4-2 formation in Spain.

However, it's as well to remember that if points were awarded for their 1970 World Cup winning side — reckoned by many to be the greatest of all time — they would have had only six or maybe seven for goalkeeper Felix and the same for a defence that was far too generous.

Our table gives England the edge over Scotland, mainly because Jock Stein's team have struggled to score goals over the last couple of years.

Tighten

And Northern Ireland must hope their form of 1982 so far has been uncharacteristic — and that they can tighten up at the back, especially, in Spain.

Even the minnows will have players who will surely grab the headlines. Cameroon and El Salvador have highly-rated 'keepers in Thomas N'Kono and Ricardo Mora; then there's Anthony Costly, the big, black stopper of Honduras; Lakhdar Belloumi, Algeria's midfield marvel; Sa'ad Al-Houti, the Kuwait captain; and Steve Sumner, New Zealand's goalscoring midfielder.

Our form guide says West Germany; the bookies say Brazil. Thankfully, the form book and bookies are so often wrong — but few would argue with these two selections as Finalists on July 11th.

West Germany best team in Spain



Karl-Heinz Rummenigge presses on for goal against Austria. The West German winger is reckoned by many to have the quality to emerge as the outstanding player of the 1982 World Cup Finals.

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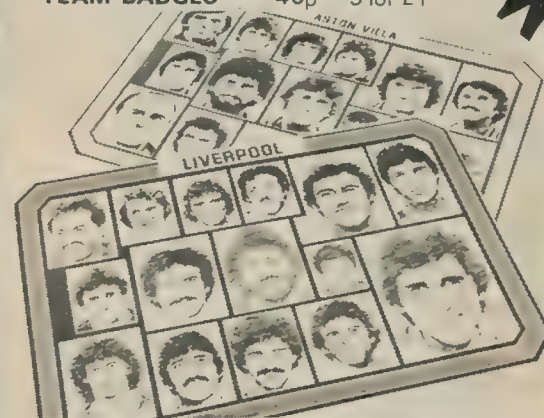
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SCOTLAND striker Joe Jordan, now told that AC Milan have retained him for next season, has had a close up of the Italian World Cup players this season . . .

And despite the poor results of the national team Jordan doesn't believe they should be under-estimated in Spain this summer.

He admits that the defeats in France and East Germany brought severe criticism of team boss Enzo Bearzot and some of the players.

Yet, says Jordan, the Italians look certain to ignore demands for new faces and stand by Bearzot's Old Guard.

"The players I have spoken to who are in the squad tell me that Bearzot is intensely loyal to them," says the former Leeds and Manchester United star.

'Appreciate'

"They all speak very highly of him and I get the impression that they appreciate his loyalty when it would be easier for him, at times, to drop players and bring in others to appease the media.

"He has a very difficult job, probably impossible. There is always criticism, always Press campaigns about one thing or another.

"Right now they are mounting a very strong campaign to get a midfield player from Inter in the side. He is a player called



Many of Italy's players from Argentina, including Giancarlo Antognoni (centre) will again figure prominently in Enzo Bearzot's World Cup plans.

Bettega. He was injured playing for Juventus against Anderlecht and had a knee operation. That was some months back but just the other week he had to return to hospital for another bout of treatment on the knee.

"I understand that he was to get some kind of manipulative operation to try to get him fit. Again, if he passes fitness tests then he'll be in the squad."

Jordan insists that the Italians will recover from their poor warm-up results.

"OK," he says, "morale was low after the two games they lost.

'LOYALTY WILL SEE ITALY THROUGH'

says Joe Jordan

Beccalossi and he's a good player, but Bearzot hasn't picked him and has come under fire for that.

"Basically, though, it looks as if he will stand by the players he has used so often in the past. Quite a few of the players who were in Argentina will be there again.

"Don't expect any shocks from Bearzot in his 22, because I just don't think you will get any.

"You'll see Cabrini there and Tardelli and Scirea and Dino Zoff and Antognoni and others.

"Antognoni has recovered from the bad injury he had and, of course, Paolo Rossi is now back in action with Juventus.

"He is playing well after that long suspension and he seems certain to be chosen for Spain.

"None of the players could see Bearzot leaving him out because he could be so valuable to them in the tournament.

"His major worry is over Roberto

They hadn't lost to France for a very long time and I don't think they expected to lose to East Germany, either.

"It hit them hard because national prestige is fantastically important here. The players are experienced, though, and resilient and because of the faith that Bearzot has in them they will repay him.

"I've been really impressed with the respect the players have for him.

"Again, so much depends on experience and Bearzot will have many of his Argentina players with him. Don't forget they reached the play off for third and fourth place four years ago.

"They lost to Brazil in that match but they did manage to beat Argentina in one of the first phase matches.

"Bearzot has a lot of experience himself and it seems that he likes

to have that same quality around him in his squad.

"I know that people don't see the Italians as the most exciting team in the world — but they will be difficult to beat and I don't see them having any problems at all reaching the second phase.

"Rossi, for instance, will be playing out of his skin if he gets this chance to step straight back in at the top in international football. They'll have a lot going for them."



NORWICH City are back in the First Division at the first attempt. City's despair at relegation from the top flight 12 months ago turned to joy at the immediate return journey, clinched on the last day of the League season.

their trust," says Brown.

"I have heard what some people say about me but don't get the wrong impression — I can mix it verbally with anyone if they push me to it."

Norwich's players discovered that late in the season. Norwich trailed 1-2 at half-time to Watford before a 15,500 crowd at Carrow

'YOU MAKE ME FEEL LIKE QUITTING!'

Ken Brown's words inspired Norwich to promotion

Ironically, defeat at Sheffield Wednesday didn't matter.

Yet when the final whistle went at Hillsborough on the final Saturday of the season, manager Ken Brown was heard to mutter: "We've blown it, we've blown it."

If Leicester City had been up to form, Norwich might indeed have lost their chance.

But while the East Anglians were losing 2-1 in Yorkshire, Leicester were stumbling to a draw against lowly Shrewsbury — and the two points they dropped that day meant Norwich were certain of promotion.

Norwich's triumph proved that nice guys can win in football. But when John Bond quit City for Manchester City last season, few thought his affable coach Ken Brown would be the man to restore Norwich's fortunes.

"I'm glad the board had faith in me. I hope I've started to repay

Road.

The players walked into a dressing room vibrating with Brown's angry words. "You played that half like fairies. You make me feel like quitting," said Brown.

One of the Norwich players admitted afterwards: "We'd never seen the boss so furious. We never realised he could get like that."

Thrashed

The effect was startling. Norwich thrashed their promotion rivals in the second-half, finishing 4-2 winners.

And that was the start of a great 14 match run which took Norwich back to the First Division.

Brown said: "It took us a long time to get our act together. But we always felt that once we got on a run, we just had to keep it going along nicely, and maybe others would slip up. In the end, that is what happened."

Undoubtedly, the experience of players like Martin O'Neill, John Deehan, Keith Bertschin, Steve Walford and Mick McGuire will give Norwich a useful base for the tough task ahead in Division One next season.

Brown says: "They say you need experience when you first go up, and I think we've got that experience. I'm not saying I won't be adding to the squad, I hope I shall. But there is a hard core of experience through the side which will be very useful to us."

"Now I hope we'll go out and do well in the First Division next season. I'm looking for a successful side, not a struggling one just keeping its head above water in the top flight."



SUPERMAC'S REVOLUTION

MALCOLM Macdonald aims to lead a revolution in football — based on fun, entertainment, joy, goals and skilful football.

Macdonald fiercely resents modern trends which threaten the future of the game.

"If there is one manager who

restricts players on the field, that is one too many. If you want to see automatons, you go to a robot factory, not a football field.

"The trend has to change for the future of our game."

The Fulham manager, who took over at the struggling London club 16 months ago, takes stock of his early managerial life just the way he played — pulling no punches in a direct style.

"I follow the flag of entertainment and I just pray many more will. What the game desperately needs is a lot of fun, enjoyment and very good football."

"I have been involved in the running of businesses since I was 22 and I felt I knew enough about that side of it to become involved."

"Of course, you never stop learning. I would say I've learned something new everyday from management and that is something which fascinates me."

"But I seriously question the business acumen of some of the people who go into football management."

"The modern day manager must have knowledge of finance because nowadays it is all down to cash and finance. Everything else

comes second.

"There are no ideals left in football — they have gone out of the window. I know one thing — my financial knowledge has stood me in very good stead since I took this job."

Fulham are now looking forward to a return to Second Division football.

'Ambition'

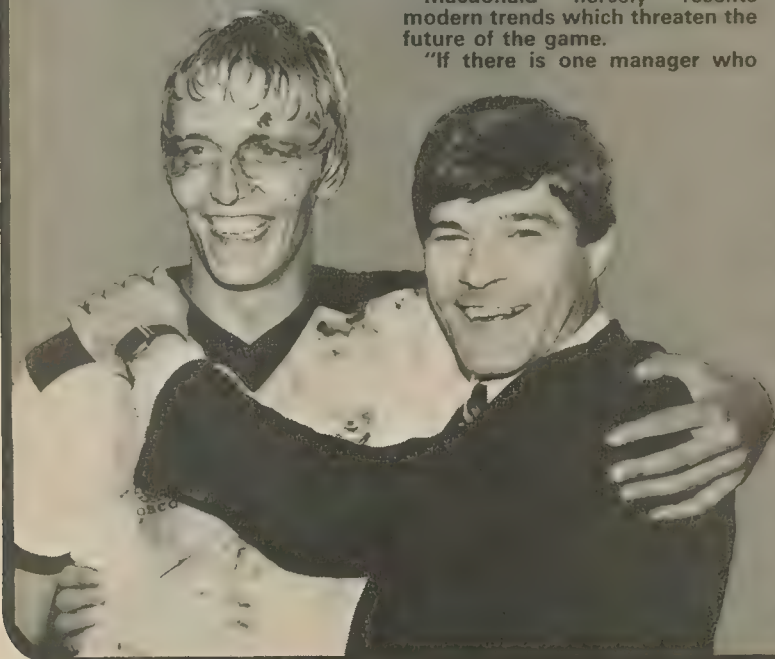
Gaining promotion has already helped Macdonald achieve an ambition — taking the club up by playing entertaining football.

But he says: "I am fully aware that everything can change on you very quickly in this job."

"Things can change overnight but one thing I won't do is panic. Management requires understanding of finance, the game and a tremendous amount of diplomacy."

"But at the same time, you must have the ability to make your team play."

"You can have the best 11 players in the world, but if you haven't got the ability to motivate them, make them want to go out and play, you won't get very far."



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Paul Marner marked his return to the England team after injury with a superbly struck second goal.

ENGLAND'S DUTCH

RON Greenwood's last game at Wembley ended on a happy note, with England beating Holland 2-0. Greenwood retires after the World Cup Finals and this Dutch treat was a happy send-off.

Holland midfielder Jan Peters is hustled by England action-man Bryan Robson.



Tony Woodcock opened the scoring... and then said 'adios' to the Wembley crowd after a first-class exhibition of forward play from the France!



Substitute Graham Rix came on and had his best game for England. Arnold Muhren has problems stopping the Arsenal star.



Holland winger Simon Tahamata is closely marked by England defender Steve Foster as the Dutch put pressure on the England back-four.

SHOOT!

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JOHN Wile plans to have a busy summer, playing for the Vancouver Whitecaps. And at the end of it, the West Bromwich skipper reckons he will return to England 'rarin' to go at the start of the season.

Some players believe in forgetting about football and getting away from it all during the close season, if possible, but Wile has his own reasons for cultivating all-the-year-round soccer action.

"As an older player, I find it easier to keep in trim by turning out regularly in competitive matches," says John.

"If I had a two or three month lay-off, it would be much more difficult to regain peak fitness — so I opted for the spell in Vancouver, where the team is coached by my old friend, Johnny Giles, to ensure that I'm ticking over when August comes along.

"Youngsters can be out of the game for months and train back to top condition fairly quickly. They haven't any problems with

Skipper John Wile explains...

WHAT WENT WRONG AT WEST BROM

muscles when they resume training again."

For Wile, in addition to the all-important matter of fitness, there is the determination to stay in form as a back-four man.

"Playing in North America means I accumulate extra experience, and all of it is valuable. I'll retain my edge by coming up against different types of opponents, and Johnny Giles has ideas on football which are always interesting. Everybody can go on learning about this game."

The experienced Wile played a big part in keeping West Bromwich in the First Division last season with consistent displays at the heart of the Albion defence.

'Relegation'

Admitting it was a struggle for his club to avoid relegation, he says: "We came uncomfortably close to the drop to the Second Division and a tremendous amount of work was thrust upon the defence, so much at times that it was inevitable that mistakes were made at the back.

"Our back-four needed a cushion to be formed by the players in front of it, and too often, this cushion wasn't there — yet overall, our defenders did well.

"One of the team's problems lay in midfield, where we're overloaded with talent but lacked endeavour. Of course, no player sets out to play badly or not try,



though the fact is that it's always possible to pull out that little bit extra.

"And in this respect, our experience of almost being relegated could serve as a great incentive in future for the players. They will have learned the sort of effort needed to operate successfully in the First Division.

"Last season, we found that we weren't winning enough 50-50 balls or picking up a sufficient number of knock-downs, and we'll be working at improving this part of our game.

"Like other clubs, we've had a share of injuries and suspensions, which I wouldn't offer as excuses for lapses of form — they are part and parcel of football."

Following his assessment of what went wrong for Albion last term, Wile offers positive views on how his team can strengthen their performances.

'Capable'

He says: "We have good players, sufficient on our books to ensure that we can hold our own with the top clubs if they show the form they are capable of — our manager will have his own ideas, though, as to whether he thinks there is enough talent in the club to make us a force in Division One, without having to buy.

"We are fortunate in having promising youngsters available, but circumstances last season meant that too many were used at once. They have to be worked into a side gradually. We are also lucky to have players like Cyrille Regis in our line-up.

"In the past, Cyrille has often had to try to accomplish too much on his own.

"Hopefully next season Cyrille will have the support he needs to keep on scoring for Albion."



Cyrille Regis comes up against Spurs' Paul Miller. The big Albion striker will be looking for more success next season.

DENIS SMITH, 34-year-old victim of enough soccer injuries to keep the Red Cross busy for a year, is leaving the First Division stage after a distinguished career in the Stoke City shirt.

Denis becomes York City's first player-manager in their history.

At the time of going to press, Denis' injuries included 18 breaks, five of them leg fractures.

But when he has been fit there have been fewer more determined or courageous defenders than the wholehearted former Stoke man.

One of his friends joked the other day: "I wonder how long it will be before he joins York's injured list?"

Right and wrong

A FEW years ago David Pleat was begging First Division clubs to buy Kirk Stephens for £5,000.

Pleat was manager of non-League Nuneaton Borough at the time. Now, as manager of Luton Town, he wouldn't dream of releasing the young right-back who was so outstanding as The Hatters won the Second Division Championship.

"I phoned Forest and Spurs to tell them about Kirk," Pleat remembers.

"There were no takers. Now I'm delighted about their indecision."

Shortly after taking over as Luton manager Pleat went back to Nuneaton to sign Stephens.

RIOCH PROMOTED



FORMER Everton and Derby star Bruce Rioch will take over as manager of Torquay United next season.

He will replace former Manchester United boss Frank O'Farrell, who has decided to stand down in favour of the 34-year-old player coach.

O'Farrell will probably continue to act as a consultant, with a place on the board.

A BRANCH of the Brechin City Supporters' Club has been formed in Suffolk and already has a membership of nearly 20.

Apart from regular bulletins, visits to watch Brechin play are also arranged.

Anyone interested should send a stamped addressed envelope to: Richard Whiting, 32 Winchester Road, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.



SCOTLAND BLOW FOR BURNS

KENNY Burns will happily turn his back on football when he travels on holiday this summer.

The Leeds United defender suffered a nightmare season after arriving at Elland Road from Nottingham Forest.

He rarely produced the sound defensive qualities that were a hallmark of his play for Brian Clough before the £400,000 transfer.

He was booked no fewer than nine times last season and his own goal in the crucial game against Tottenham at White Hart Lane set Spurs on the road to victory — and Leeds on a slide to relegation.

Perhaps the most cruel blow to Burns' pride came when Scotland manager Jock Stein announced his World Cup 40 for Spain, excluding the Leeds defender's name.

Burns was thought to be a certainty for inclusion.

SOUTHAMPTON boss Lawrie McMenemy is not at all upset that his March signing from Oxford United, Keith Cassells, failed to make an immediate impact.

Lawrie says: "I expect to hear a lot from him next season. The pace in the First Division is much faster and Keith has got to sharpen up a little bit. But he's the sort of player who is always on the end of scoring chances."

Cassells, who failed to make the grade at Watford, says: "It has always been my ambition to play in the First Division and I don't intend to let anyone down."

United need Maradona — Foulkes

DIEGO Maradona, the world's finest footballer, belongs at Manchester United, says former Old Trafford favourite Billy Foulkes.

Foulkes, manager of Norwegian Second Division club Stenjkke, believes Ron Atkinson should find ways and means of raising the £4 million that would tempt the Argentinian ace to play in the First Division.

United desperately needs the services of a player capable of producing electrifying skills, claims Foulkes.

Ray Wilkins, Bryan Robson and Frank Stapleton have strengthened the side considerably but they still need some magic.

"If they can possibly afford it, he should be at United and not Arsenal or any other club," adds Foulkes, stalwart defender at Old Trafford when they won the European Cup in 1968 and the previous year when they last won the First Division Championship.

WALSALL goalkeeper Ron Green has turned down an offer of free gloves — because he prefers to use his bare hands.

The 25-year-old was given several pairs of modern continental gloves to try out, but didn't like any of them.

Peter the brave!

NOTE THE STYLE as goalkeeper Peter Barnes boots the ball upfield. England star Ray Clemence would find it difficult to fault Peter's distribution.

The England man might also find it hard to grasp that action-man Peter, who plays for his local pub team in Skewen, Swansea, has two artificial legs.

Peter, aged 34, had his dreams of becoming a professional footballer shattered when he lost both legs below the knee in an industrial accident.

He never lost his love for the game, though, and recently his local pub landlord persuaded him to come out of retirement.

Peter's wife Diane marvels at his courage. "It's a great achievement. Our two children are thrilled to bits."

NEWS DESK

Compiled by
BILL DAY



AFTER 16 years veteran commentator Hugh Johns will no longer be bringing the action into your homes via the television.

He's quit the Midlands regional independent company Central after a dispute over a new contract.

His place goes to Peter Brackley who moves into television after a stint on BBC Radio's popular Sport on Two.

Clive's back

CLIVE WHITEHEAD will train like a demon in the summer to be fit for West Bromwich Albion's First Division campaign next season.

Many believe that Albion's troubles last season stemmed from the moment Whitehead collapsed in agony with a serious groin injury in the game against Nottingham Forest in January.

Albion lost 19 matches and won only four in his absence.

The £120,000 signing from Bristol City had settled into Albion's team pattern well before his injury.

Ronnie Allen, the Hawthorns boss says: "You cannot expect to lose a player of Clive's ability and not notice it."

HARD-SHOOTING, fast moving Steve Kindon will be back in Huddersfield's attack by the start of next season.

The popular striker, sadly missed since a serious knee injury struck him down last October, has undergone another operation which the surgeons say will mend in time for pre-season training.

Kindon, 31, who formerly played for Burnley and Wolves, described the operation in a Cambridge hospital as "make or break".



Briefly

● Middlesbrough fan Nigel Gibb has a remarkable record. The Supporters' Club secretary has missed only two games, home or away, in the past eight years. Gibb has travelled as far as Aberdeen for an Anglo-Scottish Cup-tie and Plymouth for a League Cup-tie. The last game, against League Champions Liverpool, ended Boro's eight-year reign in the top flight.

● No one was more surprised than Tony Macken himself when the Irish international was given a free-transfer by Walsall.

Macken, who joined Walsall from Derby County, said: "I find it rather surprising to say the least after playing over 40 first team games for the club last season."

● Liverpool's 13th League title win means two players, Phil Thompson and Ray Kennedy (now at Swansea), each win a record sixth First Division medal.

● Burnley striker Billy Hamilton's match-winning duo against Preston towards the end of '81-82 boosted his goal tally to the 19 mark, two more than his previous seasonal best, with Linfield, in '77-78.

Dibble debut

ANDREW DIBBLE was called up on his 17th birthday to keep goal for Cardiff City — at just an hour's notice.

Experienced Eire international Ron Healey failed a lunchtime fitness test and in came Andrew. Although beaten by a Kevin Mabbutt header which gave Crystal Palace victory, he gave a confident display. Three days later, he became a Ninian Park hero.

Andrew pulled out a string of dazzling saves against First Division high-flyers Swansea City in the first leg of the Welsh Cup Final and kept a clean sheet against international strikers Robbie James, Alan Curtis, Bob Latchford and Leighton James.

Hesford's hot property

A FEW First Division managers are poised to make a bid for Iain Hesford, Blackpool's England Under-21 goalkeeper.

Several showed interest in the brilliant young 'keeper when he played for England in the European Under-21 Championship last season.

Allan Brown, Blackpool's deposed manager, says of Hesford: "The lad deserves a higher grade of football in many respects. I think he suffers locally because he has been with the club so long."

His contract expires in a year's time but cheque books could well be waved in Blackpool's direction before the start of the season.



WHO WON WHAT IN 1981-82

First Division Champions
LIVERPOOL

Second Division Champions
LUTON TOWN

Third Division Champions
BURNLEY

Fourth Division Champions
SHEFFIELD UNITED

F.A. Cup winners
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

League Cup Winners
LIVERPOOL

Scottish Premier Champions
CELTIC

Scottish First Champions
MOTHERWELL

Scottish Second Champions
CLYDE

Scottish Cup winners
ABERDEEN

Scottish League Cup winners
RANGERS

European Cup winners
ASTON VILLA

European Cup-Winners' Cup winners
BARCELONA

UEFA Cup winners
IFK Gothenburg

Footballer of the Year
STEVE PERRYMAN (SPURS)

P.F.A. Player of the Year
KEVIN KEEGAN (SOUTHAMPTON)

Young Player of the Year
STEVE MORAN (SOUTHAMPTON)

Scottish Footballer of the Year
PAUL STURROCK (DUNDEE UNITED)

Scottish P.F.A. Player of the Year
SANDY CLARK (AIRDRIE)

Young Player of the Year
FRANK McAVENNIE (ST MIRREN)

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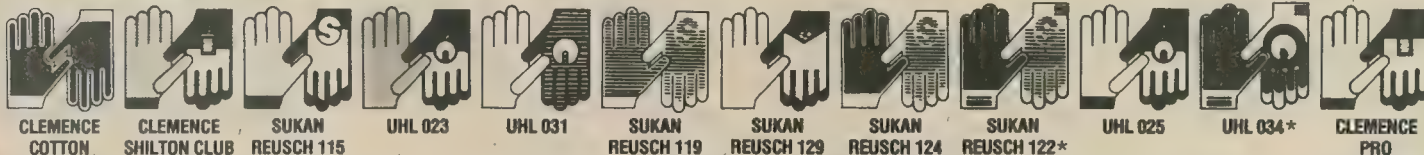
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UHL 023	Wet Dry	Yellow 3 level foam rubber	Black PU velvet	As palm	Y.S.M.L.	£3.95
UHL 031	Wet Dry	White smooth foam rubber	Black grooved foam rubber	As palm	S.M.L.	£10.95
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ALL ORDERS RETURNED WITHIN 7 DAYS

WHEN 26-year-old John McClelland, the Northern Ireland international defender, joined Rangers last summer it was the big time break he had been waiting for.

Suddenly he was being catapulted from the Fourth Division with Mansfield to the Scottish Premier League and the European Cup-Winners' Cup with Rangers.

It was a dream come true — yet the dream soon turned into an

injury ridden nightmare for McClelland.

It was to be almost a year after his transfer for £90,000 before the genial Irishman could establish himself in the Rangers first team.

He admits: "I could not have had a worse beginning. It was unbelievable. When you get to a new club you really want to do well early on.

"You have to get to know the players and you have to find your feet and your form. I was obviously eager to do that — and I was given my chance on a pre-season tour of Sweden.

"They weren't vitally important games, just matches designed to get us to proper fitness before the season started.

"Yet in the second one I was injured and out for something like six weeks.

"I got back to fitness, back to the first team squad and then I had a bad game playing at right back against Dukla and I was dropped.

"That's when things started to go wrong again.

"Inside a month I had dislocated my ankle and torn the ligaments. This time I was out of action for three full months.

"So in my first six or seven months with Rangers I'd spent more than half of them on the treatment table."

McClelland, too, had lost his place by now in the Northern Ireland World Cup squad.

"I'd been a regular for the team and Billy Bingham had used me in most of the qualifying matches," he remembers.

"But obviously with injuries and just playing in the reserves it was impossible for him to pick me for

the matches he had. So I missed out on them.

"That was disappointing but all the time I was concentrating most of all on being successful with Rangers.

"That's what I wanted most. If that came then the Irish team would follow."

It did. When McClelland was recalled to the Rangers side because of an injury to Colin McAdam, Bingham, hit by injuries to his national side, brought him back for the game against Scotland in Belfast.

And so McClelland was on course for a Scottish Cup Final with Rangers and a continued career with Northern Ireland.

"It was as hard to believe as that opening I had with the club," he smiles.

"If anyone had told me in March that I'd be back in both teams and heading for Hampden with Rangers I would not have believed them.

"It all came right for me in the space of half a dozen games after all these months of frustration."

Comfortable

Part of the reason was that McClelland was being played by Rangers as a central defender, the role where he is most comfortable.

Earlier appearances, including the disastrous European game against Dukla, were at full-back.

He admits: "Being played there was a legacy from my international run because Billy Bingham had used me there and also in midfield.

"It was unfortunate, maybe, because really I am much happier in the middle of the defence.

"I said to the Rangers' manager John Greig when I came back from injury that that's where I would prefer to play. So that's where I

got my chance when Colin was hurt.

"I've enjoyed playing in the Scottish Premier League.

"There are four or five really good teams — Celtic, Aberdeen, Dundee United, St Mirren and ourselves — and playing against each other four times makes it very competitive.

"Of course, I played in my first Old Firm game at Celtic Park towards the end of the season. I enjoyed that even though we lost. You hear so much about these games and the tension is tremendous.

"You know, I missed a scoring chance in that game and going home in the car afterwards I heard a radio phone-in where I was getting stick from one of the fans. Not because of my general play but just because I missed that opportunity to score.

"I felt terrible about it — and I want to make up for that some day if I can."

Meanwhile McClelland looks towards the new season and hopes he can escape injury as he establishes himself with the Ibrox club.

McClelland (left) follows Aberdeen striker John Hewitt during the Scottish Cup Final. Rangers lost that game 4-1.

**Fan's
phone
call
still haunts
McClelland**

The goalscorers — they are the men who thrill the fans and bring the memorable moments to every game. There is no finer sight in football than a striker hitting the back of the net. The men who can produce the vital goals are always in demand.

SHOOT has talked to four such men; players renowned for their goals and their reputations.

GOING



1. Which was your best goal of 1981-82?

The one I scored against Cardiff at home. It was an overhead kick which even surprised me. The ball came across to Mike Flanagan who headed it onto me. I didn't know what to do so I leapt up and whacked it into the net over my head.

2. Which was your best goal of all time?

Probably the goal I scored on my debut for Oldham, at Blackburn. We needed to win, it was a very important game with both sides in trouble too near the bottom for comfort. After about 20 minutes, I got the ball on the halfway line, got past two tackles and ran to the goal-line. Then, I cut inside and pretended to cross. But as the goalkeeper came out, I curled the ball into the net. I'll never forget it — definitely my best goal.

3. Is it becoming harder to score?

I think this depends entirely on the players you are playing alongside. The more good players you have in your side, the better your chance of scoring, whatever the defence and its abilities. With QPR last season I was playing with better players who made better chances. People like Jimmy Greaves scored goals wherever they went, so I'd say defences can only stop players if players allow them to.



My favourite was at Everton, when we were losing 1-0 with ten minutes left. I picked up the ball on the halfway line, ran half the length of the pitch, took it around two players and then the goalkeeper before scoring. Sometimes I have panicked in the box, but for that one I think I did all the right things and kept cool. I was proud of that one.

I think my first ever goal for the Irish Republic. It was my home debut against Cyprus and I got the ball about 25 yards out. It was my intention to shoot, but the ball stood up for me perfectly when it hit a little bump. I whacked it hard and it flew into the top corner of the net like a shell. We went on to win 5-0 and I was delighted.

Yes, I think it is. Defences are tightening up all over the country and I don't believe scoring is any easier. Probably more difficult, in fact. The accent is still on defending and too much emphasis is still placed on caution. Overall, I don't think strikers are scoring more goals.



At Notts County, in January. I finished off a six-man movement, which was a great piece of football. Sammy Lee gave me the pass with a low cross from the right wing. I came running in eight yards out and shot home. What made it special was the fact that it was such a clean move, and was also the third goal for me that day — the first hat-trick of my career.

The one I scored during my days at Chester, when we were playing Blackpool. It was 0-0 when I received the ball 30 yards out and I turned and volleyed the ball. It went straight into the top corner of the net and it won us the match. It was such a clean strike of real power that I think I shall always remember it.

Yes, a lot harder. Of course, as long as you get into the right positions, you have more chances but defences still seem to be watching strikers much more. There is not as much room for strikers these days and defences are far more disciplined than a few years ago.



I suppose most supporters would say the one against Chesterfield because it went in from such an acute angle and the gaffer praised it a lot afterwards. But the 'keeper committed himself so much that I wouldn't pick that one. I'd say the one against Brentford in our first game of the season. The ball was knocked up to me and although I was being tightly marked, the ball flipped up shoulder high. I turned and volleyed it left footed, and it went into the top right hand corner of the net from 25 yards.

My debut goal for Fulham at Blackpool. Again, it was a left footed volley which Les Strong pulled back from the bye-line to set up the chance for me. I hit it first time and it went four inches off the ground the whole way into the back of the net. It was the way I hit it; I got it exactly right and knew it was a real winner.

Yes, I think so. Teams are getting their defences sorted out and they get so many people behind the ball these days that it's hard for a front man. There are definitely not as many scoring chances around as there were two or three years ago, therefore those chances you do get are more important. The art of goalscoring has definitely become more difficult through people being more defensive minded.

FOR GOALS!

4. Is the three-points system better for strikers — or worse?

I don't think it has made a great deal of difference, but it certainly hasn't made it better for strikers. Perhaps if they had said four points for a win, two for a score draw and one for a no-score draw it would have been fairer. I have seen entertaining 0-0 draws this season and I certainly don't think this is the right system. But it has not done anything to make life easier for goalscorers because teams now clamp even tighter at the back if they score a goal, with three points at stake for a win.

5. Are clubs more attack-minded now?

Not at the moment, but soon they will have to be to survive. I think the days of organising teams just to defend and hope they get a goal on the break are about to end. The clubs which use those tactics will find themselves out of business. Teams must entertain and, after all, only one or two clubs can win trophies. The trouble is, any coach can make a side good at defending. It's far more difficult to make it good at attacking, so I don't feel there is any change thus far.



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THREE FIVE SYSTEM

I don't think the new system has done anything to open up the game. And it certainly isn't any better for strikers. I think sides now tend to sit back more, especially if they go a goal ahead. That makes life even more difficult for strikers. Personally, I can't see how a draw isn't half as good as winning. But overall, I'd say without doubt that the new points system this season hasn't been much help to goalscorers.

If a team get a goal ahead, particularly when they are playing away, they shut up shop and try to hang onto their lead. Attacking football goes out of the window in those circumstances, and that's why I believe there should be another look at the points system. Tottenham, Southampton and Liverpool are the exceptions to that rule; they do more than just try to nick a quick goal away. But apart from them, I cannot see anyone who plays with real abandon.



A costly miss by Mick Robinson against Nottingham Forest. Forest went on to win 2-1 at the City Ground.

In a way it is better because I think sides try to score goals now and look for the three points. But the trouble is, once they have scored, so many seem to go back and defend all the time, trying to hold onto the lead they have. We always go out and attack because one point is no good for us. Perhaps our success this season will encourage other sides to do the same, especially as Tottenham obviously did just the same. When a side falls behind it has to try and attack more, and that does give goalscorers more chance.

I don't think so, not on the evidence we have seen this season. Certainly at Anfield most teams have come to defend and done little else. Only Notts County came to our place and tried to attack us. We won 2-0 in the end but they gave us a hell of a hard game. Obviously when we go away, teams have to be more attack minded, but if they put a goal on the scoreboard they tend to put the shutters up.



This inch perfect lob by Ian Rush gave Liverpool victory against Sunderland.

I don't think it has changed the style of play of anyone. In fact, it has probably made it even more difficult for strikers, because as soon as teams get a goal up, they defend even more. I cannot say I am in favour of the change and I am convinced it has done nothing for the strikers in the game.

Certainly not in Division Three last season! Only a small percentage of clubs are really playing attacking football these days and I reckon 70 per cent of clubs are just hoping to hold out and get a point at the end of the match, three if they are dead lucky. I cannot say there has been any radical change as far as I've seen.



Davies on the way to goal for Fulham against Chesterfield.

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BRIGHTON striker Andy Ritchie has already made himself a contender for a place in England's 1986 World Cup team.

The Manchester United reject was the Seagulls' leading scorer last season which helped earn him an England Under-21 cap against Poland in April.

"I'd love to play for England — especially in the World Cup Finals," he says. "It was a tremendous honour to have played at Under-21 level and something which I certainly wasn't expecting."

"Fortunately I don't get nervous," Ritchie explains, "which proved to be a tremendous help on the night, and I was very satisfied with the way I played."

But it has taken Ritchie two seasons to show his full potential and to justify the £500,000 fee which Brighton paid for him.

"It took a long time for me to settle," Ritchie admits, "It was a big move for me and at the time I was still very young and had a lot to learn. This was probably why I was trying too hard to score my first goal and why it took me so long to get the ball into the net for

Brighton.

"Even so I wasn't aware of any pressure on me and the fans were great considering I had replaced their hero Peter Ward."

"Playing alongside Michael Robinson has helped. 'Robbo' and I were friends in Manchester and our style of play has complemented each other."

Ritchie also feels that the arrival of Mike Bailey has played an important part in his progress towards international honours.

"That's not taking anything away from Alan Mullery, who signed me and gave me the chance to play regular first team football."

"But I feel that a change of manager meant that we were all out to impress and the way we

started seemed to put a new zest into the club — even though we did have a hiccup at the end.

"I'm sure we can improve on our position in the First Division and we're still asking ourselves how we lost five successive matches at the end — especially after the way we played at Ipswich when we were beaten 3-1."

"A lot was said in the Press that we were too defensive, which upset us," Ritchie points out. "But I'm sure the way Mike Bailey tightened up the defence paid off and was a key factor for us enjoying our best season in the First Division. We're certainly not complacent and will be disappointed if we can't do better next season."

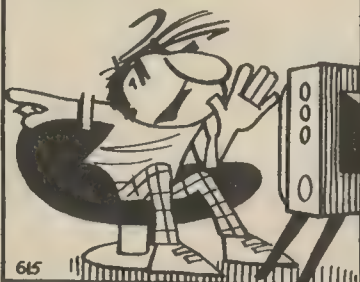
RITCHIE AIMS FOR 1986 WORLD CUP SPOT

Ritchie (centre) powers in a header for Brighton despite the close attention of the Nottingham Forest defence.

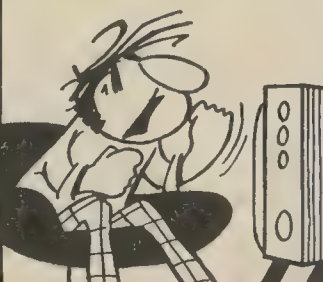


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I'D SORT YOU OUT IF YOU
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I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU
BOTHER, HE CAN'T HEAR YOU



I HOPE HE CAN'T... HAVE YOU
SEEN THE SIZE OF HIM?!



MICK Buckley has the habit of notching the odd goal for Sunderland at a vital period.

And when he scored the winner against Manchester City at Roker in his club's last game of the 1981-82 season to keep the Wearersiders in Division One, he was finally vindicated in his bid to prove himself in the North-East.

Ever since he left Everton for Sunderland four years ago Buckley has been struggling to establish himself as a midfielder worthy of a regular first-team place.

A succession of injuries meant that Mick was in and out of the League side. Up to the beginning of last term, there was still a question mark against his First Division career.

"We had a new manager in Alan Durban who had to be convinced about my ability," says Buckley. "And due to my spells of inaction, I was becoming something of a forgotten man."

But in past months, Buckley's contribution to Sunderland's fight drew praise from Durban and put Mick consistently in the headlines. And the player is delighted at the dramatic change in his fortunes.

"I played in 40 first-team matches last season without suffering any serious knocks. I was pleased with my form and the fact

that I got a goal which was vital to us in our final game was the highlight of the term for me.

"What helped me greatly to avoid some of the injuries I'd had before was the new training system introduced by Mr Durban and our coach, Mick Docherty.

"They put more emphasis on short sharp bursts of activity, plus more time spent on work-outs with the ball, which was less demanding than the previous routine.

"I found that I was less susceptible to hamstrings and strains that I had been for three years, and I had plenty of energy and stamina for the Saturday matches. I developed extra confidence, too, which will be a boost to me when August comes around."

Stresses

In looking ahead to the new season, Buckley stresses that Sunderland will believe in themselves more, and will do well — if the side increases its striking power.

He says: "We could do with scoring more goals, which means a quality player for up front, and extra penetration supplied by a new midfielder.

"At present, all three big North-East teams are lacking a personality player of the calibre of Malcolm Macdonald.

Sunderland Saviour Buckley

"I understand that Middlesbrough's David Hodgson is ready to leave the area because he feels players up here don't receive sufficient publicity.

"But I'm sure that if he could score goals like Macdonald used to, David would get all the publicity he wants."



FOOTBALL FUNNIES



"There's gratitude. All about the one I let in and nothing about all the others I saved."



This week England star Kenny Sansom selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



"Our centre-forward. He's taking his pet for a walk."



"He's a fitness fanatic. Exercises that finger for hours."



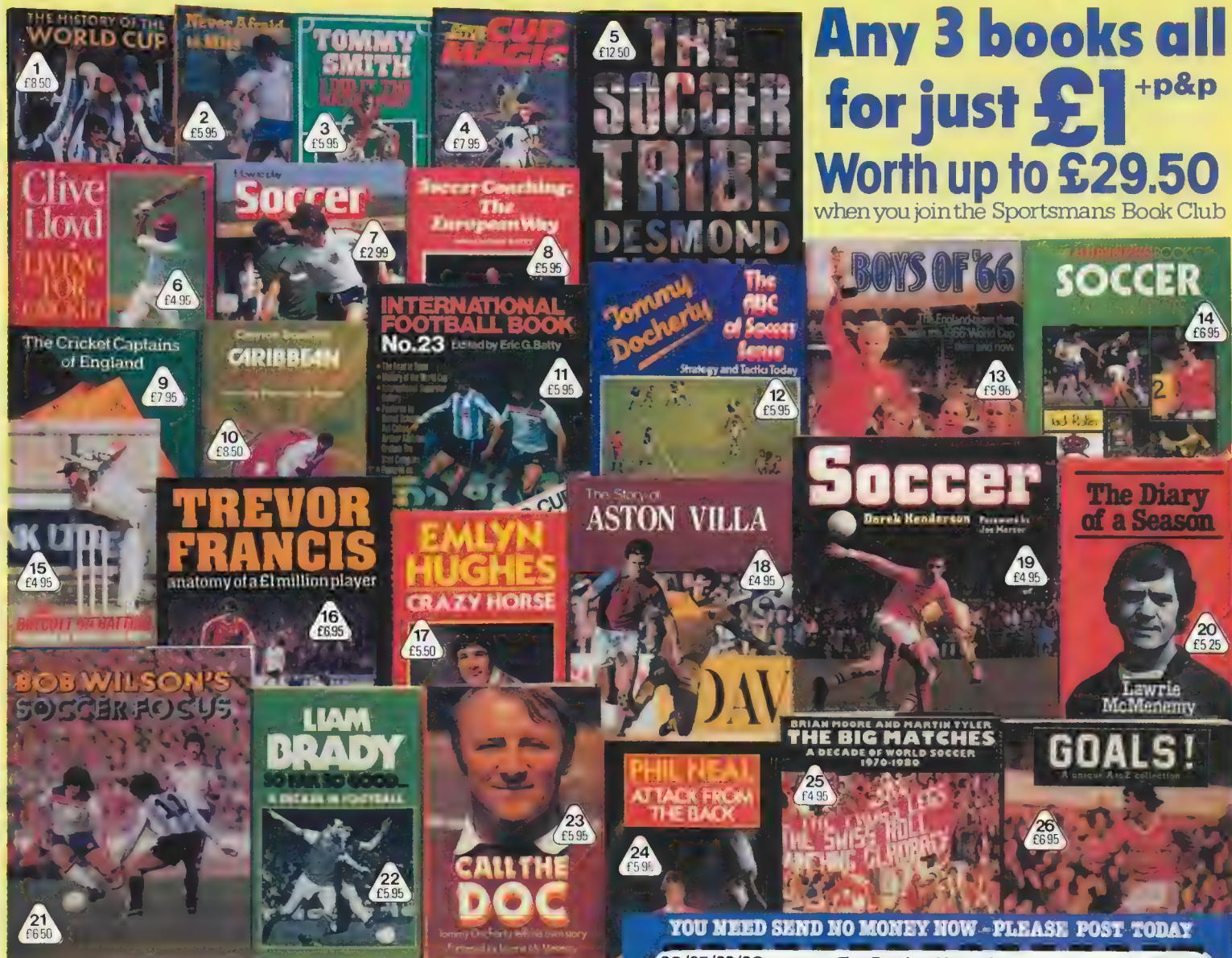
"He asked their big centre-half to give him a break..."

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RAMON DIAZ

ARGENTINA

LESS than four years after making his League debut, Argentina's Ramon Diaz is already rated among the world's top strikers — and this is something he aims to prove with goals this summer.

His electrifying sprinting, deadly finishing and his telepathic one-twos with Diego Maradona brought Diaz star rating in the 1979 World Youth Championship in Japan, where he was top scorer with eight goals in six matches.

Since then, he's graduated to Argentina's 'A' team, where he's hit eight goals in 17 appearances.

Born in La Rioja on August 29th, 1959, "El Pelado" made his League debut for River Plate as a midfielder in July, 1978 — three weeks after Argentina had won the World Cup.

He couldn't even have dreamt that he'd be taking part in the next one, but a switch to the number seven and then the number nine shirt and 57 goals in 119 League appearances have rocketed him to the top of the tree.

He's now aiming to score more spectacular goals in Spain, like the one he hammered past West Germany in the 1980 Mundialito, before heading for a new soccer life in Italy.

Only 22, Ramon Diaz could be a name to watch for many years yet.



World
Cup stars
to watch



TONINHO CEREZO

BRAZIL

HE'LL miss Brazil's opening game against the Russians through suspension, but Antonio Carlos 'Toninho' Cerezo aims to play in six others — including the Final.

The Atletico Mineiro midfielder has everything. He's elegant, skilful and dynamic. He attacks, defends and creates. And he can be counted on to produce something unexpected.

Son of a clown and an actress and brought up in a circus, Cerezo still insists on playing to thrill and entertain the public. "I believe that football should be an attractive game and a really happy spectacle."

Born on April 21st, 1955 in Belo Horizonte, he made his debut for Atletico Mineiro in a 3-0 win over Cruzeiro in 1974, and hit the national team as a 21-year-old when he appeared against Colombia in 1976.

Since then he's gone on to win 60 caps for his country, including six appearances in Brazil's pumber five shirt in the 1978 World Cup Finals.

He's one of the few survivors from the 1978 Finals, where he made a name for himself with his no-nonsense tackling and shrewd distribution.

The only worry for Cerezo is that if Brazil beat the USSR in their opening game — and beat them well — will he get his place back?

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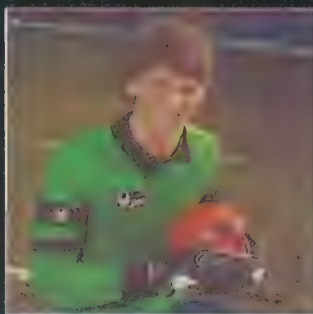
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Spurs skipper Steve Perryman proudly displays the F.A. Cup once again.

SPOT-ON SPURS

THE 1982 F.A. Cup Final produced a repeat performance from Spurs, who again won the trophy after a replay. But they certainly rode their luck, and in the end had to rely on this sixth-minute Glenn Hoddle penalty for victory. The only consolation for Second Division QPR was the knowledge that perhaps they deserved better.

Glenn Hoddle is crowded out by Simon Stainrod, John Gregory and Gary Mickelwhite.

Gary Mickelwhite gets to grips with Tottenham's flying winger Tony Galvin.

Paul Miller saves the day for Spurs with this header off the line.

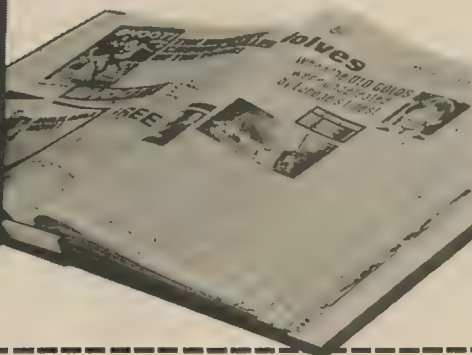
SHOOT down midet Steve Archibald clashes with QPR's midfield aggressor Gary Waddock.

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Cocky McGrain

I WAS disgusted with Danny McGrain's 'Tartan Talk' of May 22 proclaiming 'We Are The Champions' because, at the time, Celtic still needed another point to take the title.

There was none of this talk from Phil Thompson in his column, and Danny has been playing long enough to know that the great fascination of football is its unpredictability.

My message to Danny is "don't count your chickens before they're hatched."

HELEN THOMPSON,
NOTTINGHAM.

● There's nothing too unpredictable about Scottish soccer.

Midlands misery

LAST season was one of the worst on memory for the Midlands soccer scene.

Wolves were relegated, Stoke, WBA, Birmingham, Coventry, Notts County and even Aston Villa all struggled to avoid the drop and not one Midlands club was promoted.

Only Villa's marvellous success in the European Cup Final and the 'arrival' of Cyrille Regis helped to brighten up our otherwise depressing season.

TONY GOLDINGAY,
STREETLY.

● Lets hope things improve next season.

Greedy F.A.

I THINK I speak on behalf of all Hong Kong soccer fans when I say I was extremely disappointed not to see the F.A. Cup Final on our TV.

The fault for this lies with the English F.A. who, I believe, demanded £100,000 from the Hong Kong TV companies for screening rights.

The companies tried to negotiate but the attitude of the F.A. seemed to be 'take it or leave it'.

I can only hope that the F.A. shows greater consideration for the many foreign fans of British soccer in future.

CON O'KELLY,
HONG KONG.

Wonder Walsh

IT'S time that Ron Greenwood took a good look at Charlton's Paul Walsh.

He has been superb in every game, has a great eye for goal and is surprisingly good in the air for his height.

And while he's down at The Valley, Ron could also do worse than consider left-back Paul Elliott to accompany Walsh in the Under-21 side.



GOAL-LINES

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you liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT! All letters must be exclusive to SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from Robert Garvey of Petts Wood in Kent, who wins £10. He writes:



HIGHBURY HANGOVER

AFTER pestering my dad for months, he reluctantly agreed to take me to see West Ham playing at Arsenal. Now I know just why football attendances are dropping so rapidly.

Play was interrupted for ten minutes by fighting on the terraces and after the game a fan was stabbed to death.

But what shocked me most was the bad language and amount of drinking which went on.

The row of seats in front were empty for more than half the game.

The men sitting there arrived 15 minutes late with a pint of beer each. 15 minutes before half-time they left again, and didn't reappear until well into the second-half with more beer. Ten minutes later they left.

Was it really worth their while coming to the game?

● Many theories as to why crowds are down have been put forward. Hooliganism, inspired by drunkenness, is the real reason, as your letter proves.

NICHOLAS NICE,
BROMLEY.

● Ron's already got Walsh (No. 8 below) marked down as a definite one to watch.

Leicester's losers

AS a Leicester supporter I was disappointed they finished the season with nothing to show for their efforts.

I would like to see them play WBA in a third place play-off for the F.A. Cup.

JUSTIN FARMER,
HINCKLEY.

● They used to play such a game until recently, but nobody seemed too interested. And with the fixture lists already so crowded, I couldn't see many clubs welcoming its return.

Well done, George

CONGRATULATIONS to George Courtney, who proved himself to be an excellent referee during the recent UEFA Cup Final between IFK Gothenburg and SV Hamburger. Britain should be proud of his marvellous performance.

KARI HEIKONEN,
FINLAND.

● It's nice to know that the referee's contribution is appreciated. George (right) is one of our best refs.



Irons' idols

I FELT I must write to commend the players and managers who took part in the recent friendly match to boost Scunthorpe United's SOS Appeal.

Jack Charlton, John Robertson, Willie Young (above), Ian Porterfield, Ian Storey Moore and Kevin Keegan helped to attract more than 4,000 fans to the Old Show Ground.

In these times when football is said to be on a decline, it is pleasing to know that some players are considerate enough to go out of their way to help clubs who are in financial difficulties.

ROBERT NOBLE,
BARROW-UPON-HUMBER.

Wallchart winner

CHEERS SHOOT! Your World Cup wall-chart was great, easily the best of its kind.

P. BLAIR,
GLASGOW.

● We think so, too.

Kids stuff

LAST season I managed to see 90 football matches, in which there were more than 600 goals scored.

I saw tremendous skills, saves that would have been repeated many times if televised, good referees, great sportsmanship, no bad fouls, no sendings-off, no pitch invasions, no hooliganism and no murders. I saw supporters of opposite sides exchanging cigarettes and cups of tea. I didn't see a single goalless draw and all this didn't cost me a penny.

No, I haven't been dreaming, nor have I been to the moon.

Believe me, schoolboy football is the greatest bargain of all time.

JOE O'BRIEN,
LEIGH-ON-SEA.

● Thankfully there are still some areas of the game which remain completely free of the general malaise.



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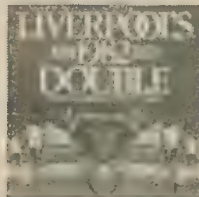
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1977 EUROPEAN CUP FINAL Liverpool v Borussia MGB; 1977 BATTLE OF THE GIANTS, Manchester United v. Liverpool; 1977 LEAGUE CUP FINAL, Villa's Hat-trick; 1976 UEFA CUP, Liverpool v. Brugge; 1976 LEAGUE CUP FINAL, Manchester City v. Newcastle; 1975 CUP FINAL, Hull To The Hammers! 1974 F.A. CUP FINAL, Liverpool's Cup; 1973 F.A. CUP FINAL, Sunderland's Cup; 1973 LEAGUE CUP FINAL, Spurs v. Norwich; 1972 F.A. CUP FINAL, Leeds v. Arsenal; 1972 LEAGUE CUP FINAL, Salute to Stoke!; 1971 CUP FINAL, Arsenal v. Liverpool; 1971 EURO CUP WINNERS, Chelsea v. R. Madrid; 1970 F.A. CUP FINAL, Chelsea's Cup; 1967/70 WORLD CUP, Finals & Semi-Finals; 1968 EUROPEAN CUP FINAL, Manchester United v. Benfica; CELTIC SOUVENIR, Celtic 1953 to 1970

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* 1980 W. Ham 1, Arsenal 0 200ft/400ft
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* 1979 Arsenal 3, Man Utd 2 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 200ft/400ft
* 1978 Ipswich 1, Arsenal 0 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
* 1977 Man Utd 2, Liverpool 1 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
* 1976 Southampton 1, Man Utd 0 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
* 1975 West Ham 2, Fulham 0 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
* 1974 Liverpool 3, Newcastle 0 200ft
* 1973 Sunderland 1, Leeds 0 200ft
* 1972 Leeds 1, Arsenal 0 200ft
* 1971 Arsenal 2, Liverpool 1 200ft
* 1970 Chelsea 2, Leeds 1 200ft
* 1969 Man City 1, Leicester 0 200ft

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1968 WBA 1, Everton 0 200ft
1967 Spurs 2, Chelsea 1 200ft
1965 Liverpool 2, Leeds 1 200ft
1964 West Ham 3, Preston 2 200ft
1963 Man Utd 3, Leicester 1 200ft
1962 Spurs 3, Burnley 1 100ft
* 1961 Spurs, Leicester 100ft

1963 Blackpool 4, Bolton 3 100ft
1954 to 1960 also available 100ft

EUROPEAN CUP

* 1978 Liverpool 1, Brugge 0 200ft/400ft
Also 400ft col sound 200ft/300ft
* 1977 Liverpool 3, Borussia MGB 1 200ft/300ft
Also 200ft/300ft col sound 200ft/400ft
1968 Man Utd 4, Benfica 1 200ft/400ft
Also b/w sound 200ft

1968 Man Utd 3, Madrid 3 (semi-final) 200ft/400ft
1967 Celtic 2, Inter Milan 1 200ft/400ft
1966 Man Utd 5, Benfica 1 200ft
1960 R. Madrid 7, Eintracht 3 200ft/400ft

WORLD CUP

* 1978 Argentina 3, Holland 1 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft
* 1978 Scotland 3, Holland 2 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft
* 1978 Argentina 2, France 1 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft
* 1978 Holland 2, Italy 1 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft
* 1978 Holland 2, West Germany 2 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft
* 1978 Brazil 2, Italy 1 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft

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* 1970 ITALY 4, GERMANY 3 200ft
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Consecutive games

Who has played the most consecutive Football League games for his club?

DARREN SAUT, CRAWLEY

Tranmere centre-half Harold Bell is the winner there, Darren.

He played for Rovers against Rotherham in the opening match of the first post-War League season of 1946-47.

From then on, he didn't miss a game until he was dropped for the visit of Gateshead on 30th April, 1955 — a total of 401 successive Third Division (North) appearances.

All told, Bell's remarkable total totted-up to 459 first team games — for, during this period, he also played in 26 F.A. Cup-ties, 22 Liverpool Senior Cup-ties, and ten Cheshire Bowl ties.

Saints

Why are Southampton nicknamed "Saints"?

PAULO ANUNCIACAO, PORTUGAL

Goes right back to their original in 1885, Paulo — 35 years before they joined the League.

Then they were founded by a young men's association run by the local church of St. Mary's.

In fact, they played under the name of Southampton St. Mary's for the first 12 years of their existence.

SHORT PASSES

George Best gained 37 full caps for Northern Ireland between 1963-64 and 1977-78. The last two were as a Fulham player.

(DENNIS LUSUAGO, Zambia)



Manchester United won the League Championship in 1908, 1911, 1952, 1956, 1957 (above), 1965 and 1967; and the F.A. Cup in 1909, 1948, 1963 and 1977.

(STELLIOS TRIHOUNTIRIS, Greece)

"The Bully Wee" is the nickname of Clyde "Gable Endies" that of Montrose.

(MICHAEL ANDREWS, Greenock)

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THE £200,000 swoop by West Ham for Airdrie striker Sandy Clark may have come as something of a surprise to Upton Park fans, but nothing was left to chance by manager John Lyall.

Lyall, in fact, watched the Broomfield captain and top scorer three times during the season before deciding the time was right to move in for Clark, the Scottish Player of the Year.

"Just before the deal I watched him against Dundee at Dens Park," reveals Lyall. "I was greatly impressed by his enthusiasm and energetic running.

"His old club Airdrie were already relegated at the time, but he still put a lot of effort into his game.

"I firmly believe he will be a great buy for us... especially if he can knock in 15 to 20 goals a season!"

The much-wanted Clark, who also attracted the attention of Champions Celtic, Rangers and Aberdeen during the season, says: "Obviously I'm looking forward to having a crack at the English First Division.

"This is the ideal opportunity to show my ability. The thought of playing alongside so many good players at West Ham excites me. I'm glad to join the growing

colony of Scots at The Hammers.

"Ray Stewart settled in well there after his £400,000 transfer from Dundee United a few years ago and, of course, Neil Orr has done well, too, after his move from Morton during the season.

"The new season can't come quick enough for me. It was sad leaving Airdrie, however.

"I owe them a lot. I had a good career at Broomfield, but the time was absolutely right for me to move on.

"Instead of having to play outside the Premier Division next season I can look forward to playing in the English First Division. I can't wait to get started."

Clark could take the role of David Cross, affectionately known as "Psycho", in the new term and the



Ray Stewart.



Sandy Clark West Ham's new 'Psycho'

Upton Park supporters will see a striker who gives total commitment for the entire 90 minutes.

His former Airdrie manager Bobby Watson has good news for West Ham when he says: "Sandy's a confident, cocky character and I'm convinced he will do well in England.

"Nothing frightens him. He is used to working for everything he gets in football. He won't change that style at Upton Park.

"Let's face it, it was an incredible feat that he won the Player of the Year award this year from his fellow-professionals.

"Airdrie are hardly the most glamorous club in Britain and they have struggled in the past year. But, in that hardly relaxed atmosphere, Sandy still managed to knock in the goals and look good, too.

"The players should know a good professional when they see one... and that's exactly what Sandy is. Yes, he'll do well for West Ham."

Clark gave up a good job outside football to try his luck in English soccer as a full-timer and he says: "I'm certain it's the right decision. I believe I can become a better player in England.

"I'll have all the benefits of full-time training and coaching and that surely will help my game.

"Now I can concentrate completely on my soccer career without any outside distractions."

The 26-year-old Clark welcomes the refreshing challenge that lies ahead. Even with struggling Airdrie he proved himself to be a winner. It looks as though West Ham have got themselves another tartan bargain.

JOHN MCGREGOR SOLD HIMSELF TO LIVERPOOL

THE list of clubs chasing the signature of amateur John McGregor looked like the Who's Who of British soccer...

It seemed every top club wanted to tempt the tall centre-back away from Queen's Park. Celtic and Rangers led the race in Scotland while Manchester United, Manchester City, Spurs, Coventry and Liverpool were all in the hunt.

"Eventually I settled for Liverpool," says McGregor. "Oh, I know there are so many good players at Anfield and I will probably have to wait ages to get a first team chance, but I just couldn't turn down their offer.

"I know I'll learn a lot with Liverpool.

"I was ready to leave Queen's Park at the end of last season, but coach Eddie Hunter convinced me it would be in my better interests to hold off for another year.

"He was absolutely right. The move to Liverpool proves that. They are a team of everyone's dreams. It's difficult for me to believe that I will

be mixing with players such as Kenny Dalglish, Graeme Souness, and Alan Hansen."

It is believed McGregor picked up something in the region of £40,000 for himself in the deal. As an amateur he keeps the fee while Queen's Park miss out.

But McGregor reveals Rangers made a last-gasp bid to keep him in Scotland just hours before he agreed to join Liverpool.

"They came in with a fabulous offer at virtually the last minute," says McGregor, who was seen by Ibrox manager John Greig as the ideal replacement for Colin Jackson.

"It was very tempting, but I just couldn't say no to Liverpool."

Anfield manager Bob Paisley admits he hadn't seen McGregor before making his move, but he says: "I've had outstanding reports about the boy. Obviously they were from reliable sources.

"If he makes the same progress as Steve Nicol, the full-back we bought from Ayr United last year, then I'll be delighted."





Hosts West Germany won the World Cup in 1974, beating Holland 2-1 in the Final.

BRITAIN'S RECORD v. 1st RND. OPPONENTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A
England v France	18	13	2	3	57	24
England v Czechoslovakia	9	5	2	2	17	11
England v Kuwiat	No previous form					
Scotland v Brazil	5	0	2	3	1	5
Scotland v USSR	2	0	0	2	0	3
Scotland v New Zealand	No previous form					
N. Ireland v Spain	5	0	2	3	4	12
N. Ireland v Yugoslavia	2	1	0	1	1	1
N. Ireland v Honduras	No previous form					



England beat France 2-0 in the 1966 World Cup. Now the two nations meet again.

History says England will qualify



WORLD CUP HONOURS BOARD

YEAR	HOST COUNTRY	WINNERS	RUNNERS-UP	THIRD	FOURTH
1930	Uruguay	Uruguay	Argentina	USA and Yugoslavia (jt 3rd)	
1934	Italy	Italy	Czechoslovakia	Germany	Austria
1938	France	Italy	Hungary	Brazil	Sweden
1950	Brazil	Uruguay	Brazil	Sweden	Spain
1954	Switzerland	W. Germany	Hungary	Austria	Uruguay
1958	Sweden	Brazil	Sweden	France	W. Germany
1962	Chile	Brazil	Czechoslovakia	Chile	Yugoslavia
1966	England	England	W. Germany	Portugal	USSR
1970	Mexico	Brazil	Italy	W. Germany	Uruguay
1974	West Germany	W. Germany	Holland	Poland	Brazil
1978	Argentina	Argentina	Holland	Brazil	Italy

● On five occasions the host nation has won the World Cup, on two occasions it has come second and once the hosts have achieved third position.

RECORDS OF THE 19 COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE APPEARED IN PREVIOUS FINALS

	Debut	P	W	D	L	F	A	% Success	Rate
Brazil	1930	52	33	10	9	119	56	56	73.07
West Germany	1954	41	25	8	8	96	55	55	70.73
Poland	1938	14	9	1	4	27	19	19	67.85
Italy	1934	36	20	6	10	62	40	40	63.88
USSR	1958	19	10	3	6	30	21	21	60.52
Argentina	1930	29	14	5	10	55	43	43	56.89
England	1950	24	10	6	8	34	28	28	54.16
Hungary	1934	26	13	2	11	73	42	42	53.84
Austria	1934	18	9	1	8	32	36	36	52.77
Northern Ireland	1958	5	2	1	2	6	10	10	50.00
Yugoslavia	1930	25	10	5	10	45	34	34	50.00
Chile	1930	18	7	3	8	23	24	24	47.22
Spain	1934	18	7	3	8	22	25	25	47.22
Czechoslovakia	1934	22	8	3	11	32	36	36	43.18
France	1930	20	8	1	11	43	38	38	42.50
Peru	1930	12	4	1	7	17	25	25	37.50
Scotland	1954	11	2	4	5	12	21	21	36.36
Belgium	1930	9	1	1	7	12	25	25	16.66
El Salvador	1970	3	0	0	3	0	9	9	00.00

* Honduras, New Zealand, Kuwait, Cameroon and Algeria never appeared before

BRITISH TEAMS' SUCCESS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	% SUCCESS	STAGE REACHED
1950 England	3	1	0	2	2	2	33.33	First Round
1954 England	3	1	1	1	8	8	50.00	Quarter-Finals
1954 Scotland	2	0	0	2	0	8	—	First Round
1958 England	4	0	3	1	4	5	37.50	First Round play-off
1958 Scotland	3	0	1	2	4	6	16.66	First Round
1958 Wales	5	1	3	1	4	4	50.00	Quarter-Finals
1958 N Ireland	5	2	1	2	6	10	50.00	Quarter-Finals
1962 England	4	1	1	2	5	6	37.50	Quarter-Finals
1966 England	6	5	1	0	11	3	91.66	Winners
1970 England	4	2	0	2	4	4	50.00	Quarter-Finals
1974 Scotland	3	1	2	0	3	1	66.66	First Round
1978 Scotland	3	1	1	1	5	6	50.00	First Round

TOP SCORERS

Fontaine	France	13	1958
Kocsis	Hungary	11	1954
Muller	West Germany	10	1970
Eusebio	Portugal	9	1966
Stabile	Argentina	8	1930
Leonidas	Brazil	8	1938



Portugal's Eusebio. The 'Black Pearl' was top scorer of the 1966 Finals

GUIDE TO THE GAMES

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4	GROUP 5	GROUP 6
ITALY POLAND PERU CAMEROON	W. GERMANY AUSTRIA CHILE ALGERIA	ARGENTINA HUNGARY BELGIUM EL SALVADOR	ENGLAND CZECH FRANCE KUWAIT	SPAIN YUGOSLAVIA N. IRELAND HONDURAS	BRAZIL USSR SCOTLAND N. ZEALAND

FIRST ROUND TIES



JUNE 13th	7.00	Barcelona	Argentina v Belgium
JUNE 14th	4.15	Vigo	Italy v Poland
JUNE 14th	8.00	Seville	Brazil v USSR
JUNE 15th	4.15	La Coruna	Peru v Cameroon
JUNE 15th	8.00	Malaga	Scotland v New Zealand
JUNE 15th	8.00	Elche	Hungary v El Salvador
JUNE 16th	4.15	Gijon	W. Germany v Algeria
JUNE 16th	4.15	Bilbao	England v France
JUNE 16th	8.00	Valencia	Spain v Honduras
JUNE 17th	4.15	Oviedo	Chile v Austria
JUNE 17th	4.15	Valladolid	Czechoslovakia v Kuwait
JUNE 17th	8.00	Zaragoza	Yugoslavia v N. Ireland
JUNE 18th	4.15	Vigo	Italy v Peru
JUNE 18th	8.00	Alicante	Argentina v Hungary
JUNE 18th	8.00	Seville	Brazil v Scotland
JUNE 19th	4.15	La Coruna	Poland v Cameroon
JUNE 19th	8.00	Elche	Belgium v El Salvador
JUNE 19th	8.00	Malaga	USSR v New Zealand
JUNE 20th	4.15	Gijon	W. Germany v Chile

JUNE 20th	4.15	Bilbao	England v Czechoslovakia
JUNE 20th	8.00	Valencia	Spain v Yugoslavia
JUNE 21st	4.15	Oviedo	Algeria v Austria
JUNE 21st	4.15	Valladolid	France v Kuwait
JUNE 21st	8.00	Zaragoza	Honduras v N. Ireland
JUNE 22nd	4.15	La Coruna	Peru v Poland
JUNE 22nd	8.00	Elche	Belgium v Hungary
JUNE 22nd	8.00	Malaga	USSR v Scotland
JUNE 23rd	4.15	Vigo	Cameroon v Italy
JUNE 23rd	8.00	Alicante	Argentina v El Salvador
JUNE 23rd	8.00	Seville	Brazil v New Zealand
JUNE 24th	4.15	Oviedo	Algeria v Chile
JUNE 24th	4.15	Valladolid	France v Czechoslovakia
JUNE 24th	8.00	Zaragoza	Honduras v Yugoslavia
JUNE 25th	4.15	Gijon	W. Germany v Austria
JUNE 25th	4.15	Bilbao	England v Kuwait
JUNE 25th	8.00	Valencia	Spain v N. Ireland

Times given are British time; Spain is one hour ahead.
Top two teams from each group qualify for Second Round, starting June 28th.



TOP WEST GERMANY, 1974 . . . Kazimierz Deyna, the Poland captain, on the ball against Italy. The teams meet again in Vigo.

LEFT ARGENTINA, 1978 . . . Leo Luque of Argentina tests the Hungary 'keeper. On June 18th in Alicante there's a 'replay' of this game.

RIGHT AUSTRIA, 1981 . . . Pierre Littbarski celebrates a qualifying goal for West Germany against Austria. The countries now clash in the Finals on June 25th.



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FRANCIS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND COVENTRY REVIVAL

THE dazzling improvement in results by Coventry City over the final third of last season has transformed Highfield Road.

Dave Sexton has swept away the apprehension among Everton's only rivals as the youngest squad of players in the first Division. Now the stage is set for Coventry's best yet.

The club that has so far won nothing in 14 years of First Division football has had its confidence, challenge and ambition restored by Sexton's shrewd, patient handling.

Coventry could be a team to fear next season.

"To work with young players motivated by enthusiasm and fuelled by skill has been a rich, rewarding experience. We've come a very long way ... and there is plenty more to come," says Sexton.

"Providing we can keep the players together — and nobody

can be sure of anything with freedom of contract as it is today — we will have plenty going for us next season.

"Above all, the youngsters have acquired that habit of consistency.

"We enjoyed a marvellous run that started with a 0-0 draw at Swansea. Then we went away to Manchester United and won. From that moment, we were on our way; getting better and better and then banging in goals as well.

"Mark Hateley scored the first hat-trick of his career; Steve Whit-

ton followed up quickly by scoring all three as we won at Manchester City; Garry Thompson was regularly on target."

There is no doubt in Sexton's mind about the reason behind that spurt of freescore displays by Coventry's attack-minded youngsters: the mastery of Gerry Francis.

"The signing of the former England captain was a controversial deal ... but it has worked out superbly.

"Gerry has always had that special gift of establishing communications with strikers. He steadies them, directs them, services them with the passes and the space they need.

'Ability'

"When strikers are new to the demands of First Division football, they tend to move too far away; Gerry has that ability to draw them close to him."

Sexton points to Whitton — just eight League games before last season and not a goal to show from any of them — as the reason why Francis has so much more to contribute.

"Nearly all Steve's goals come away from home, because he hasn't got over the nervousness of playing in front of our own supporters. That is one thing to quickly put right and make us even

count on first team football in the squad that Sexton is hastening along. England Youth international Martin Singleton scored on his debut; his fellow 18-year-old, Scottish-born winger John Henry, demonstrated those rediscovered qualities of high-paced control on the flank with every first team opportunity.

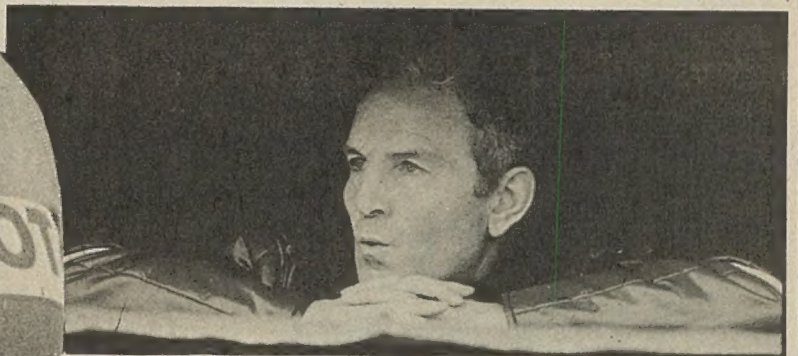
And it isn't only in attack that Sexton is urging young players to take their chances with both hands. Two more 18-year-olds, Ian Butterworth who operates at either centre-back or in midfield, and defender Peter Hormantschuk both stamped their determined qualities on Coventry's first team football.

The partnership of the 21-year-olds at centre-back, Paul Dyson and Gary Gillespie, was virtually unbroken from start to finish with Dyson emerging as a poised skipper, while Sexton assesses the gifted Danny Thomas as "the most athletic player on the staff."

But experience has its part to play as well. Sexton rates the return of goalkeeper Les Sealey almost on a par with the efforts of Francis. "Les came back for Jim Blyth for the game at Swansea and played tremendously from then on.

"There is intense rivalry between the 'keepers and it wasn't that Jim had been having a bad time — far from it. It was simply a case of taking a goalkeeper out of the firing line for a while: once he was back again, there was no way

Manager Dave Sexton singles out Gerry Francis for the reason behind Coventry's form at the end of last season.



more effective.

"Steve is a natural scorer. Take that hat-trick at Maine Road, for instance, because he just about went through the card: a chip over the goalkeeper, dribbling around the goalkeeper and a terrific shot from the edge of the penalty area. He can score in so many ways.

"Mark Hateley grew in confidence with every week of the season. Few players can have deserved so thoroughly to finish as top scorer. He never stops hunting, chasing, challenging and looking for chances. He is worth every goal he scores."

Not that Whitton, Hateley, Thompson or any other player can

that Les would let go."

The talented Steve Hunt has now left Coventry to renew his career with the New York Cosmos.

He claimed that Coventry were lacking in ambition and that new players were needed if the club were ever going to challenge for major honours.

In recent weeks, however, Coventry proved that Hunt was wrong.

From a team limping along in constant relegation trouble and a manager needing to rebuild shattered fortunes, the partnership of Coventry City and Dave Sexton is set to strike sparks in the First Division next season.

TAKE A BREAK IT'S

QUIZ TIME

F.A. CUP FINAL



The F.A. Cup Final between Tottenham and Queens Park Rangers was played recently. Can you answer the following questions about the Final and the replay?

1. Tottenham goalkeeper Ray Clemence played his fourth F.A. Cup Final. Only one other 'keeper has played as many... can you name him?

2. Did Glenn Hoddle open the scoring in the 1-1 draw with a

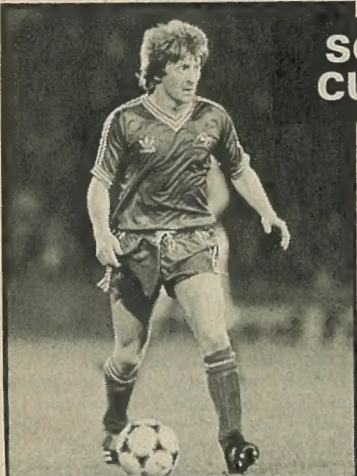
right-foot shot in the first or second-half of extra-time?

3. Terry Fenwick equalised for Rangers. Apart from earning a replay, what was so significant about the England Under-21 star's header?

4. Tottenham won the replay 1-0. Who scored for the First Division club?

5. Why didn't Rangers captain Glenn Roeder play in the replay?

SCOTTISH CUP FINAL



Rangers and Aberdeen played at Hampden in the Scottish Cup Final. See if you can answer the following questions about the game.

1. Did Peter McCloy or Jim Stewart play in goal for Rangers?

2. What was the score after 90 minutes?

3. Aberdeen eventually won 4-1 in the extra 30 minutes. Did The Dons' Gordon Strachan score?

4. It was the first time for 43, 53 or 63 years that Rangers had been beaten in the Final by a club apart from Celtic?

INTERNATIONALS

1. F.C. Cologne's Tony Woodcock scored his first goal for England against Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales in 1979?

2. Did Bryan Robson of Manchester United win his first England cap under Don Revie or Ron Greenwood?

3. Was Partick Thistle's Alan Rough or former Leeds United star David Harvey the number one goalkeeper for Scotland during the 1974 World Cup Finals in West Germany?

4. Martin O'Neill of Norwich is an international player for the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland?

5. The last time Wales won the British Championship outright was in 1936-37, 1937-38 or 1938-39?



TRUE OR FALSE?

1. Sheffield United won the Fourth Division Championship in 1981-82 for the first-ever time.

2. West Ham's Billy Bonds began his League career with Charlton Athletic.

3. Former Ipswich Town and Northern Ireland defender Allan Hunter is player-manager of Fourth Division Colchester United.

4. West Brom striker Cyrille Regis was spotted playing for non-League club Harlow.

5. Liverpool's first European Cup Final win was against FC Bruges at Wembley in 1978.

JUMBLED STRIKERS

Rearrange the jumbled letters to find the names of some of the strikers who figured in the SHOOT/adidas awards and their clubs.

1. VNEIKEANKGE (TNOUSTMHAP)
2. RARYGNNTBRIESA (FDLSEHEFINAEEDDSW)
3. IRGACDNDEMA (RUYB)
4. LAANALRZBI (HSUCWP)
5. YONTOELWKL (EEETRX)
6. RODNOGISAEDV (MUHFL)
7. IKHLETASEDRDW (LEESFIFEDNUTI)
8. ANISRHU (ELOLVOPIR)
9. EOBIRBOECOK (EERTTHGOOUBP)
10. VSEETETHIW (TNULO)

ON THE BALL ANSWERS:-

ACROSS:- (1) Her. (3) Bingham. (6) Tan. (7) Film. (8) Exit. (10) Per. (12) Win. (13) Map. (15) Slope. (17) Moore. (20) Limp. (22) Area. (24) Rail. (26) Brazil. (28) Ramsey. (29) Daly. (30) Ends. (33) Pole. (34) Usage. (36) Trots. (39) Yen. (40) Has. (41) Rey. (43) Oleg. (44) Best. (45) Era. (47) Eusebio. (48) Yet.

DOWN:- (1) Hunt. (2) Rahn. (3) Bilbao. (4) Game. (5) Mexico. (7) Fans. (9) Time. (10) Plea. (11) Rome. (12) Wembley. (14) Players. (16) Lazcs. (18) Oar. (19) Rimet. (20) Led. (21) Pry. (23) Red. (24) Rep. (25) Lee. (27) Leg. (31) Near. (32) Stay. (34) Undo. (35) Ailleg. (37) Oviedo. (38) Shot. (42) Eire. (45) Espy. (46) Abet.

ANSWERS:

INTERNATIONALS. 1. Northern Ireland. 2. Greenwood. 3. Harvey. 4. Northern Ireland. 5. 1936-37. JUMBLED STRIKERS. 1. Kevin Keegan (Southampton). 2. Garry Bannister (Sheffield Wednesday). 3. Craig Madden (Bury). 4. Alan Brazil (Ipswich). 5. Tony Kellow (Exeter). 6. Gordon Davies (Fulham). 7. Keith Edwards (Sheffield United). 8. Ian Rush (Liverpool). 9. Robbie Cooke (Peterborough). 10. Steve White (Luton). TRUE OR FALSE. 1. True. 2. True. 3. True. 4. False — he was spotted playing for Hayes. 5. False — It was the previous year against Borussia Monchengladbach in Rome. CUP FINAL. 1. Arsenal's Pat Jennings. 2. Second-half. 3. He was the first full-back to score from open play. 4. Glenn Hoddle. 5. He was suspended. SCOTTISH CUP. 1. Stewart. 2. 1-1. 3. Yes, the third. 4. 53 years.

WHY WE LOST THE TITLE' — Bobby Robson

IPSWICH manager Bobby Robson has a ready reply for anyone labelling his side as football's nearly men.

"We've been called the bridesmaids on a number of occasions," says the Portman Road boss, "but there are some clubs who don't get inside the church, never mind down the aisle!"

Runners-up in the title race for the second successive season, Ipswich finished just four points adrift of Champions Liverpool.

And statistics show it was the goals they conceded that cost them dearly.

Even bottom-of-the-table Middlesbrough's defence was pierced fewer times, but Robson is quick to point out that injuries severely disrupted his own defence.

Terry Butcher missed 15 League games while George Burley, sidelined for ten months, only regained his first team place in November and ended the season with 29 League appearances out of a possible 42.

Robson says: "When we have players of that calibre ruled out it is bound to affect performances."

'Very Well'

"I'm not having a go at the youngsters who came into the side, in fact they did very well for us or we wouldn't have been able to push Liverpool right to the very end.

"We also had to soldier on without Frans Thijssen and Paul Mariner for large chunks of the season and this is what beat us in the end.

"We didn't have the continuity of players so we didn't have the consistency either.

"Maybe we did concede more goals than we would have liked, but with a settled defence the number wouldn't have been anywhere near as high.

"But at least we scored more goals than most sides and considering Mariner missed 17 games through injury I think our total of 75 was pretty good."

Those people expressing doubts as to whether Ipswich are good enough to land English football's highest accolade would do well to consider they have just returned their best-ever League performance.

Under the old system of two points for a win and one for a draw Ipswich would have finished with a total of 57, one better than in 1961-62 when they clinched their one and only Championship.

Robson adds: "People can have a go if they want but we're proud of our efforts, not just in the past season but for the last ten years.

"In that time only Liverpool have a more consistent record.

"To be able to say we finished lower than sixth place in the First Division only once in ten years is a terrific feat.

"And the season we ended up in 18th position we made up for it by winning the F.A. Cup."

The Ipswich boss is also one of the meanest spenders in the transfer market, with the £200,000 he spent on Eire winger Kevin O'Callaghan from Millwall two years ago still his record deal.

"Do you know that Leeds United have spent more on new players in the last year than I have spent in 13 years at this club?"

"It's true. And there are other clubs who have forked out millions without becoming any better than us," he says.

"We've always done our sums very carefully here. Our youth policy has produced the bulk of our first team squad but that's not just luck, it's good planning.

"The more I think about it, the more I realise we've achieved a football miracle here."

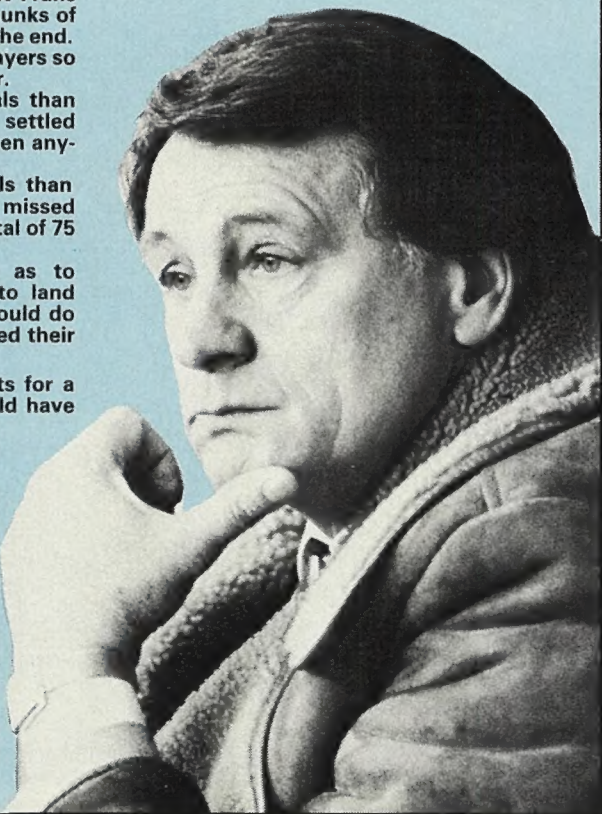
Robson will lead his team into Europe next season for the ninth time in ten seasons, but will he stay long enough at Portman Road to complete the campaign?

Or will he be installed as Ron Greenwood's successor?

"My contract says I will be at Ipswich for the next two years.

"England already have a manager and until that situation changes I don't want to talk about it.

"All I'm thinking about at the moment is trying to win the Championship with Ipswich next season," he emphasises.



ESPAÑA '82

all the World Cup news and views in next week's **SUPER SHOOT!**

England's Phil Thompson and Bryan Robson (right) comment on the vital matches against Czechoslovakia and Kuwait.



Steve Archibald on Scotland's crunch games against Brazil and Russia.

Brazil boss makes amazing revelation.

Northern Ireland skipper Martin O'Neill — 'The difficulties playing host nation Spain.'

A complete World Cup Round-Up.

Discover the clubs chasing Scotland 'keeper Alan Rough.

Neville Southall's dramatic rise from the building site to international soccer with Wales.

Dave Armstrong's battle at Saints.

ALSO IN COLOUR

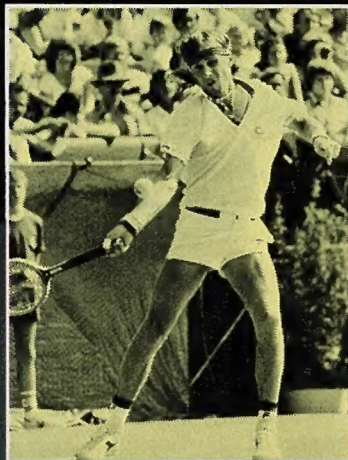
Action from England's recent victory over Scotland + a tribute to all the Winners of '81-'82 + Craig Johnston (Liverpool) + Paul Mariner (Ipswich) and Super Focus on Luton's Brian Stein.

All this and much more in next week's World Cup Special edition of SHOOT — Britain's biggest selling soccer magazine!

Super Focus

FRANCOIS VAN DER ELST Belgium & West Ham

FULL NAME: Francois Van der Elst
BIRTHPLACE: Opwijk, Belgium
BIRTHDATE: December 1, 1954
HEIGHT: 5ft 9ins
WEIGHT: 11st 4lbs
MARRIED: Yes, to Gratiene
CHILDREN: Kevin and Doreen
CAR: Ford Granada 2.8GL
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Anderlecht and New York Cosmos
JOB OR TRADE BEFORE:
TURNING PRO: Schoofboy. I turned pro with Anderlecht at 17
NICKNAME: 'Franky'
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: I like them all
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Karl-Heinz Rummenigge
A PLAYER FOR THE FUTURE: I don't know too many young players in England but there are some good ones at West Ham
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Anderlecht
FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD: Pele
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Tennis



Championship Final to W. Germany
FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS: I've never had any problems with away fans
BEST STADIUM PLAYED IN: Aztec Stadium, Mexico
FAVOURITE FOOD AND DRINK: Steak and Carlsberg lager
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES . . .
DISLIKES: Travelling and playing cards with friends . . . Talking about politics

Tennis player Bjorn Borg (left) and West German striker Karl-Heinz Rummenigge



FAVOURITE SINGERS: Gene Pitney and all kinds of disco music
FAVOURITE ACTOR . . .
ACTRESS: Terrance Hill and Bo Derek
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: France
BEST FILM SEEN RECENTLY: 'Stripes'
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Dallas
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF: Relax at home with my wife and children
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My parents and my friend Willy, who made everything possible for me
SUPERSTITIONS: None
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: One Belgian Championship, 3 Belgian Cups, 2 Cup-Winners' Cups, 2 Super Cups, once Belgium's leading scorer and 35 full caps for Belgium
PERSONAL AMBITION: To live happily with my family and friends
IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO? It's hard to say, but probably a constructor like my father
CAREER AFTER PLAYING: Sports shop
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? The Pope

OTHER SPORTS PERSONS YOU MOST ADMIRE: Bjorn Borg, Steve Davis, Niki Lauda
YOUR BEST EVER ALL TIME XI: Yashin, Kaltz, Moore, Beckenbauer, Briegel, Cruyff, Keegan, Rivelino, Pele, Rummenigge, Vandenbergh.
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Anderlecht v FC Bruges in the Belgian Cup Final. We lost 4-3 after leading 3-1 at half-time
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing the 1980 European



SHOOT!